

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Suzanne Hilding

FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Diana Hynek

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received
08/03/2009

ACTION REQUESTED: New collection (Request for a new OMB Control Number)

TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular

ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 200907-0648-001

AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER:

TITLE: NMFS Observer Programs' Information That Can Be Gathered Only Through Questions

LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved without change

OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 0648-0593

The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 09/30/2012

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	0	0	0
New	13,927	17,455	1,000
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0

NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Change due to Agency Adjustment	0	0	0
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE:

OMB Authorizing Official: Kevin F. Neyland
Deputy Administrator,
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
		Longline haul log, Longline gear characteristics log, Scallop trawl off-watch haul log, Length Frequency Log, Scallop dredge haul log	
North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program	NA, NA, NA, NA	Vessel/Plant Operator Comment Form, Vessel/Plant Operator Comment Card Follow-up Form, Safety checklist, Tagged Fish and Crab Form	50 CFR 679.50
Alaska Marine Mammal Observer program	NA, NA	Data release form, Fishermen's comment card	50 CFR 600.746, 50 CFR 229 Subpart A
At-Sea Hake Observer Program (Northwest)	NA, NA	Safety checklist, Fishermen's Data Request Form	50 CFR 660.314
WCGOP: West Coast Groundfish Observer Program	NA, NA	Safety checklist, Fishermen's data request form	50 CFR 660.314
Pacific Islands Region Observer Program	NA, NA, NA, NA, NA	Post cruise observer evaluation, Longline Gear Configuration, Placement meeting questions and checklist, Longline trip expenditures for Hawaiian Islands, Longline trip expenditures for American Samoa	50 CFR 665.28
Southeast Shark Fishery Observer Program	NA, NA, NA, NA	Reimbursement form, Observer evaluation form, Safety checklist, Observer notification form	50 CFR 222.401
Southeast Pelagic Observer Program	NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA	Reimbursement for insurance expenses, Reimbursement for equipment expenses, Reimbursement for for assistance with bluefin tuna samplin, Observer evaluation form, Safety checklist, Observer Notification Form	50 CFR 622.8, 229.7, and 222.401
Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish and Shrimp Observer Program	NA, NA, NA, NA	Observer notification form_reef fish, Observer notification form_shripm, Reef fish and shrimp observer evaluation form, Reef fish and shrimp safety checklist	50 CFR 622.8, 229.7, and 222.401

List of ICs

IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Southwest Region Observer Program - Funded	NA, NA	Safety checklist, Drift gillnet trip expenditure form	50 CFR 229 Subpart A
Southwest Region Observer Program - currently unfunded but requesting burden approval	NA, NA	Drift gillnet trip expense form, Safety checklist	50 CFR 229 Subpart A

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT SUBMISSION

Please read the instructions before completing this form. For additional forms or assistance in completing this form, contact your agency's Paperwork Clearance Officer. Send two copies of this form, the collection instrument to be reviewed, the supporting statement, and any additional documentation to: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Docket Library, Room 10102, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503.

1. Agency/Subagency originating request	2. OMB control number b. <input type="checkbox"/> None a. _____ - _____
3. Type of information collection (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> New Collection b. <input type="checkbox"/> Revision of a currently approved collection c. <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of a currently approved collection d. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, without change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired e. <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired f. <input type="checkbox"/> Existing collection in use without an OMB control number For b-f, note Item A2 of Supporting Statement instructions	4. Type of review requested (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular submission b. <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency - Approval requested by _____ / _____ / _____ c. <input type="checkbox"/> Delegated
	5. Small entities Will this information collection have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	6. Requested expiration date a. <input type="checkbox"/> Three years from approval date b. <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify: _____ / _____
7. Title	
8. Agency form number(s) (<i>if applicable</i>)	
9. Keywords	
10. Abstract	
11. Affected public (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "x"</i>) a. ___ Individuals or households d. ___ Farms b. ___ Business or other for-profit e. ___ Federal Government c. ___ Not-for-profit institutions f. ___ State, Local or Tribal Government	12. Obligation to respond (<i>check one</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary b. <input type="checkbox"/> Required to obtain or retain benefits c. <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
13. Annual recordkeeping and reporting burden a. Number of respondents _____ b. Total annual responses _____ 1. Percentage of these responses collected electronically _____ % c. Total annual hours requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____	14. Annual reporting and recordkeeping cost burden (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>) a. Total annualized capital/startup costs _____ b. Total annual costs (O&M) _____ c. Total annualized cost requested _____ d. Current OMB inventory _____ e. Difference _____ f. Explanation of difference 1. Program change _____ 2. Adjustment _____
15. Purpose of information collection (<i>Mark primary with "P" and all others that apply with "X"</i>) a. ___ Application for benefits e. ___ Program planning or management b. ___ Program evaluation f. ___ Research c. ___ General purpose statistics g. ___ Regulatory or compliance d. ___ Audit	16. Frequency of recordkeeping or reporting (<i>check all that apply</i>) a. <input type="checkbox"/> Recordkeeping b. <input type="checkbox"/> Third party disclosure c. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting 1. <input type="checkbox"/> On occasion 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-annually 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Annually 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Biennially 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____
17. Statistical methods Does this information collection employ statistical methods <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	18. Agency Contact (person who can best answer questions regarding the content of this submission) Name: _____ Phone: _____

19. Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions

On behalf of this Federal Agency, I certify that the collection of information encompassed by this request complies with 5 CFR 1320.9

NOTE: The text of 5 CFR 1320.9, and the related provisions of 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3), appear at the end of the instructions. *The certification is to be made with reference to those regulatory provisions as set forth in the instructions.*

The following is a summary of the topics, regarding the proposed collection of information, that the certification covers:

- (a) It is necessary for the proper performance of agency functions;
- (b) It avoids unnecessary duplication;
- (c) It reduces burden on small entities;
- (d) It used plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents;
- (e) Its implementation will be consistent and compatible with current reporting and recordkeeping practices;
- (f) It indicates the retention period for recordkeeping requirements;
- (g) It informs respondents of the information called for under 5 CFR 1320.8(b)(3):
 - (i) Why the information is being collected;
 - (ii) Use of information;
 - (iii) Burden estimate;
 - (iv) Nature of response (voluntary, required for a benefit, mandatory);
 - (v) Nature and extent of confidentiality; and
 - (vi) Need to display currently valid OMB control number;
- (h) It was developed by an office that has planned and allocated resources for the efficient and effective management and use of the information to be collected (see note in Item 19 of instructions);
- (i) It uses effective and efficient statistical survey methodology; and
- (j) It makes appropriate use of information technology.

If you are unable to certify compliance with any of the provisions, identify the item below and explain the reason in Item 18 of the Supporting Statement.

Signature of Senior Official or designee

Date

Agency Certification (signature of Assistant Administrator, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Line Office Chief Information Officer, head of MB staff for L.O.s, or of the Director of a Program or StaffOffice)

Signature

Date

Signature of NOAA Clearance Officer

Signature

Date

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
NMFS OBSERVER PROGRAMS' INFORMATION THAT CAN BE GATHERED
ONLY THROUGH QUESTIONS
OMB CONTROL NO. 0648-xxxx**

INTRODUCTION

This request is for a new collection, including some information approved under current collections (burdens to be adjusted after approval) and some information that had been collected without PRA clearance. The process of developing this comprehensive collection has taken quite some time. We had initially requested emergency review, and understand that it was not justified, as there was no statutory or Congressional mandate and deadline. However, we are requesting review soon after the 30 day comment period, as it is urgent that we operate with full OMB approval.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) deploys fishery observers on United States fishing vessels and to fish processing plants in order to collect biological and economic data. NMFS has at least one observer program in each of its six Regions. These observer programs provide the only reliable and/or most effective method for obtaining information that is critical for the conservation and management of living marine resources.

Observer programs primarily obtain facts or opinions through direct observations by employees or agents of NMFS or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations; and such collections are not generally subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (5 C.F.R. §§ 1320.3(h)). However, observer programs also collect the following information that requires clearance under the PRA: (1) standardized questions of fishing vessel captains/crew or fish processing plant managers/staff (includes fish buyers/dealers), which include gear and performance questions, safety questions, and trip costs, crew size and other economic questions; (2) questions asked by observer program staff/contractors to plan observer deployments; (3) forms that are completed by observers and that fishing vessel captains are asked to review and sign; (4) questionnaires to evaluate observer performance; (5) information used to ensure that the data for a specific trip are not provided to an individual (e.g., fisherman) who does not have authority to obtain that data under the confidentiality requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and/or the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA); and (6) information on reimbursement forms. Economic information not available during the trip may be requested via a mail follow-up survey. NMFS has received PRA clearances for the second and fourth types of collections for some observer programs (Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control Numbers 0648-0423, 0648-0202, and 0648-0374 for deployment questions and 0648-0550 and 0648-0536 for observer evaluations). The burden hours for the observer program questions in those collections are included in this national, comprehensive PRA submission and will be removed from the current collections once this request is approved.

The primary authorizations for NMFS to place observers on fishing vessels are included in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA); and each observer program was implemented by program or fishery specific regulations, at 50 C.F.R. 679 Subpart E (Alaska

Exclusive Economic Zone), 622 Subpart A (Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf and South Atlantic), 635 Subpart A (Atlantic Highly Migratory Species), 648 Subpart A (Fisheries of the Northeastern United States), 660 Subpart G (West Coast Groundfish Fisheries), 660 Subpart I (Coastal Pelagic Fisheries), 665 Subpart C (Western Pacific Pelagic Fisheries), and 229 Subpart A (MMPA Provisions). Sec. 303(b)(8) of the MSA states that any fishery management plan which is prepared by any Council, or by the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary), with respect to any fishery, may require that one or more observers be carried on board a vessel of the United States engaged in fishing for species that are subject to the plan, for the purpose of collecting data necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery; Sec. 403(a) requires the Secretary to promulgate regulations for fishing vessels that carry observers; and Sec. 403(b)(1) requires the Secretary to establish programs to ensure that each observer receives adequate training in collecting and analyzing the information necessary for the conservation and management purposes. Similar authority to place observers on fishing vessels is provided by Sec. 118 of the MMPA (codified in 50 C.F.R. Part 229, Authorization for Commercial Fisheries under the MMPA) and the ESA (applicable sections codified in 50 C.F.R. Parts 222 (General Endangered and Threatened Marine Species), and 223 (Threatened Marine and Anadromous Species). Observers may also be required under ESA Section 7, Biological Opinions. However, no observer programs are currently implemented under the ESA authority.

Sec. 402(a)(2) of the MSA states that if the Secretary determines that additional information is necessary for developing, implementing, revising, or monitoring a fishery management plan, or for determining whether a fishery is in need of management, the Secretary may, by regulation, implement an information collection or observer program requiring submission of such additional information for the fishery. Alternatively, a Council may initiate the implementation of such an information collection or observer program [Sec. 402(a)(1)]. Sec. 303(a)(5) makes it explicit that the information the Secretary is authorized to collect includes the “economic information necessary to meet the requirements of this Act.”

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary.

Biological and economic information collection programs implemented by NMFS address statutory and regulatory mandates to conserve and manage living marine resources, which includes collecting information that can be use to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; and (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management measures and alternative proposed management measures. In particular, these biological and economic information collection programs contribute to analyses required under the MSA, the ESA, the MMPA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), as well as a variety of state statutes including Florida Statute 120.54, Hawaii Revised Statute 201M-2, New Jersey Permanent Statutes 52:14B-19, and Oregon Revised Statutes 183.335 and 183.540. NMFS observer programs are often the only reliable and/or most effective sources for some of the biological and economic information required to meet the legislative and regulatory mandates that define

the NMFS stewardship responsibilities for the conservation and management of living marine resources.

The lack of more complete economic information in the majority of Federally managed fisheries has stymied NMFS' ability to conduct these analyses and has led to lawsuits and regulatory challenges of fisheries policies in the last several years, resulting in overturned rebuilding objectives, biologically unsustainable total allowable catches, and eroded confidence in NMFS' decision making process and social sciences capability. Maintaining and expanding the fishery economic information collections will improve the scientific foundation of the Agency's policies and help decision makers weigh the economic impacts of their decisions.

It is important to note that a key feature of the Federal regulatory process is that NMFS cannot simply implement a regulation to achieve a conservation goal but instead must consider a suite of management alternatives. Economic analyses can identify the alternative that minimizes losses to stakeholders while still achieving conservation goals, allowing NMFS to be proactive, rather than reactive, in its resource management strategy.

For these reasons, the collection of economic information in fisheries has received a top priority in the NMFS Social Science Plan, the NMFS Strategic Plan, and the NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB).¹ In addition, NMFS Regional Offices and Fishery Science Centers, as well as the Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) and Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions (Interstate Commissions) recognize the need for economic information, e.g., see the Pacific Fisheries Management Council's report "*Research and Data Needs, 2008*", as well as the Northeast Fisheries Science Center report "*Data Needs For Economic Analysis of Fishery Management Regulations.*" The need for economic data has also been identified by external sources, including the Kammer Report, Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports, and National Research Council (NRC) reports.²

Background

MSA

The MSA establishes eight Councils, each of which is charged with the preparation of a fishery management plan and plan amendments with respect to each fishery requiring management within its jurisdiction. Each fishery management plan (FMP) prepared by a Council, or by the

¹ Performance metrics cited within the NOAA Strategic Plan include the number of FMPs with complete economic data (variable cost, annual operating cost, and revenue) collected for commercial harvesters and the number of FMPs for which net benefits can be calculated. The 2003 Report of the SAB's Social Science Review Panel noted that "The lack of appropriate data limits the contribution of social science to NOAA" and the 2008 draft Report of the SAB's Social Science Working Group supports that finding.

² See "An Independent Assessment of the Resource Requirements for the National Marine Fisheries Service: A Report to the Deputy Under Secretary, NOAA and the Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service," prepared by Ray Kammer, June 2000. In addition, National Research Council publications that identify the need for commercial fisheries economic data include "Marine Protected Areas: Tools for Sustaining Ocean Ecosystems" (2001); "Improving the Collection, Management, and Use of Marine Fisheries Data" (2000); and "Sharing the Fish: Toward a National Policy on Individual Fishing Quotas" (1999). GAO publications recognizing the importance of commercial fisheries economic data include "Individual Fishing Quotas: Better Information Could Improve Program Management" (2003); "Commercial Fisheries: Entry of Fishermen Limits Benefits of Buyback Programs" (GAO/ Resources, Community and Economic Development (RCED)-00-120); and "Fishery Management: Problems Remain with National Marine Fisheries Service's Implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act" (GAO/RCED-00-69).

Secretary, must contain conservation and management measures that are consistent with the national standards, and any other applicable law [MSA Sec. 303(a)(1)(C)], and a description of the fishery including actual and potential revenues from the fishery [MSA Sec. 303(a)(2)]. The MSA authorizes FMPs developed by the Secretary or Council to require one or more observers be carried on board a fishing vessel engaged in fishing for species subject to the plan, for the purposes of collecting data necessary for conservation and management of the fishery [MSA Sec. 303 (b)(8)].

Plans and plan amendments must also include a fishery impact statement that analyzes the likely effects, if any, including the cumulative conservation, economic, and social impacts, of the conservation and management measures and possible mitigation measures [MSA Sec. 303(a)(9)].

Biological and economic information is needed to meet each of the national standards referenced above. The ten national standards (in *Italics*) and requirements for biological and economic information to meet them are presented below [MSA Sec. 301(a)].

(1) Conservation and management measures shall prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery for the United States fishing industry.

Biological information is required to determine the fishing level and whether it results in overfishing; and both types of information are necessary to determine the optimum yield because it is defined in term of the amount of fish which, among other things, “will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation.”

(2) Conservation and management measures shall be based upon the best scientific information available.

Various sections of the MSA make it clear that scientific information includes both biological and economic information.

(3) To the extent practicable, an individual stock of fish shall be managed as a unit throughout its range, and interrelated stocks of fish shall be managed as a unit or in close coordination.

Principally biological information is required to identify the range of a stock of fish and the interrelated stocks of fish. However, stocks of fish can be interrelated due to fishing vessels that participate in multiple fisheries, in which case, economic information can be useful in identifying interrelated stocks.

(4) Conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different States. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various United States fishermen, such allocation shall be (A) fair and equitable to all such fishermen; (B) reasonably calculated to promote conservation; and (C) carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges.

Economic information, including cost and revenue data on participants in the fishery, is required to identify some of the effects of such allocations and is therefore useful in determining whether such allocations are “fair and equitable.” Economic information is also useful in determining what constitutes “an excessive share of such privileges.”

(5) Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, consider efficiency in the utilization of fishery resources; except that no such measure shall have economic allocation as its sole purpose.

This standard requires appropriate descriptions of the fishery and assessments of the effects of management actions, which are not possible without biological and economic information. For example, cost and revenue information is necessary to evaluate the effects of proposed measures on efficiency. Cost and revenue information is also necessary to anticipate the likely effects of proposed measures on participants in the fishery.

(6) Conservation and management measures shall take into account and allow for variations among, and contingencies in, fisheries, fishery resources, and catches.

The “variations among and contingencies in fisheries” can be defined in terms of both biological and economic variables. Therefore, both types of information are required.

(7) Conservation and management measures shall, where practicable, minimize costs and avoid unnecessary duplication.

Economic information, specifically cost information, is required to determine if this national standard is met.

(8) Conservation and management measures shall, consistent with the conservation requirements of this Act (including the prevention of overfishing and rebuilding of overfished stocks), take into account the importance of fishery resources to fishing communities by utilizing economic and social data that meet the requirements of paragraph (2), in order to (A) provide for the sustained participation of such communities, and (B) to the extent practicable, minimize adverse economic impacts on such communities.

There is an explicit requirement to use “economic and social data” to meet this national standard. Specifically, economic information is required to predict the extent to which conservation and management measures are expected to provide for the “sustained participation” and “minimize adverse economic impacts.”

(9) Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, (A) minimize bycatch and (B) to the extent bycatch cannot be avoided, minimize the mortality of such bycatch.

Congress and NMFS have made it clear that the broadly defined benefits and costs of further reductions in the levels of bycatch or the discard mortality rates should be considered in determining if or what further reductions are practicable. Therefore, both types of information are required to meet this national standard, where much of the critical biological information, including bycatch estimates, is provided by NMFS observer programs. Observer programs are considered the most reliable source of bycatch data.

(10) Conservation and management measures shall, to the extent practicable, promote the safety of human life at sea.

Economic information is required to determine what further improvements in safety are practicable.

Acting under authorities provided in the MSA, the Councils and Secretary have implemented 47 FMPs, each of which addresses biological and socio-economic characteristics and issues associated with the fishery. For example, the Pacific Coast groundfish FMP includes a framework for the development and evaluation of management decisions having substantial socio-economic implications (Section 6.2.3 of the Pacific Coast Groundfish Plan) (Attachment A). Where management is necessary to address socio-economic issues, the Council must prepare a report, which addresses the achievement of goals and objectives of the FMP, economic impacts and how the proposed action will address at least one of 15 items including: maintaining stability in the fishery, increasing economic yield, and increasing fishing efficiency. With respect to allocation actions, the Council must consider such factors as present participation in and dependence on the fishery, including alternative fisheries, historical fishing practices in and historical dependence on the fishery, as well as consistency with MSA national standards. FMPs prepared by other Councils address issues comparable to those addressed in the Pacific Coast groundfish FMP.

An observer program provides a very efficient method of collecting high quality economic information at the trip level. The specific advantages to collecting trip level economic information through the observer programs include the following:

1. Reduced respondent burden #1: Most of the information will be collected directly by an observer on the fishing vessel at a time that it is convenient for the captain/crew.
2. Reduced respondent burden #2: Because the economic information is being collected in conjunction with other information on operations, only a relatively small number of economic questions are asked. In comparison, annual economic surveys often ask both economic and operational questions, information on landings, etc.
3. Reduced respondent burden #3: Respondents typically are asked to provide only information that is readily available to them and maintained for their own purposes.
4. Higher response rates: The observers can explain to the captain/crew the purpose and need of the data collection and how data will be kept confidential.
5. Cost-effective: We make use of an existing survey platform, as well as data entry and data management programs.
6. "Cleaner" data #1: The observer receives training and knows what each question means. Self-reported data collected via logbook and/or mail surveys require considerable cleaning because so often the fisherman doesn't understand the question, reports information in the wrong units, etc.
7. "Cleaner" data #2: Because the observer is onboard for the trip being reported on, he can accurately record quantities; for the questions that are asked, recall bias is reduced/eliminated because the fisherman just made the purchases and/or used his fishing supplies, fuel, etc.

8. More accurate data #1: For those fishermen that operate out of multiple ports, trip-specific cost information helps to map expenditures to communities, which improves the community economic impact analysis.
9. More accurate data #2: Most management measures usually just affect some aspect of a vessel's operations, e.g., the regulation may restrict the use of a particular gear or targeting strategy or it may shut down particular fishing grounds. To do cost-benefit analysis, one needs to know the "economics" of the affected trips. Trip-specific cost and quantity information allows one to provide more accurate cost-benefit analyses.

Each FMP also relies on stock assessments to aid in managing the fishery, set harvest levels, prevent overfishing, and rebuild overfished stocks, as directed by MSA. Stock assessments determine whether changes in the population are due to natural or human-related causes and predict future trends in the population. The stock assessment process requires detailed information for each species, including size, age, gender, and number caught. Fishery biologists use the information provided by observer programs, along with other data sources such as research cruises and fishermen-reported data, to complete a stock assessment.

MMPA

The MMPA seeks to maintain marine mammal stocks at optimum sustainable population levels, principally by regulating the human-induced mortality and serious injury of marine mammals. This includes fishing-related mortality and serious injury. Although the MMPA prohibits the "take" of marine mammals, it provides exceptions for incidental mortality and serious injury during the operation of commercial fishing, as well as a limited number of other activities. "Take" is defined in the MMPA as, "to harass, hunt, capture, or kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal" (16 U.S.C. § 1362 (13)). In 1994, Congress amended the MMPA to include Section 118, which established a regime to regulate the take of marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing so that it does not occur at a level that jeopardizes a marine mammal stock's ability to reach its "optimum sustainable population", defined as "the number of animals which will result in the maximum productivity of the population or the species, keeping in mind the carrying capacity of the habitat and the health of the ecosystem of which they form a constituent element" (16 U.S.C. § 1362(9)). Marine mammal stock assessments rely on observer data to develop estimates of fishing-related mortalities and serious injuries. Observer data are also used in the fisheries classification process, under Section 118 (described in the next paragraph).

Section 118 of the MMPA requires that NMFS classify each United States (U.S.) commercial fishery according to whether there is a frequent (Category I), occasional (Category II), or a remote (Category III) likelihood of incidental mortality and serious injury of marine mammals. It also requires the establishment of take reduction teams to develop take reduction plans (TRP) for those fisheries with the greatest impact on marine mammal stocks (Category I and Category II). Participants in Category I or II fisheries are required to register with NMFS, take on board an observer if requested by NMFS [Sec. 118 3(B)], and comply with all applicable TRP regulations.

The MMPA establishes both a short-term (six month) and a long-term (five year) goal for marine mammal bycatch reduction. Take Reduction Plans are required to reduce, within six months of implementation, the incidental mortality or serious injury of marine mammals incidentally taken in the course of commercial fishing operations to levels less than a stock's potential biological removal (PBR) level. Within five years of implementation, TRPs are required to reduce the mortality or serious injury of marine mammals incidentally taken in the course of commercial fishing operations to insignificant levels approaching a zero mortality and serious injury rate (commonly referred to as the Zero Mortality Rate Goal or ZMRG), taking into account the economics of the fishery, the availability of existing technology, and existing state or regional fishery management plans (16 U.S.C. § 1387(f)).

ESA

The ESA requires the Federal government to protect and conserve species and populations that are endangered or threatened with extinction, and to conserve the ecosystems on which these species depend. Some threatened and endangered species, including all sea turtle species and certain species of salmon, seabirds, and marine mammals, are captured as bycatch in commercial and recreational fisheries. The ESA requires development of a recovery plan that identifies criteria and actions to recover each listed species. Recovery plans for marine species generally include reducing incidental capture of protected species in fishing operations as a priority-one action, which is necessary to prevent extinction or irreversible declines. In some cases, fisheries can be restricted or terminated because they incidentally take protected species and impede recovery of the listed population. Other provisions of the ESA ensure that sources of mortality for protected species are identified and minimized or mitigated.

ESA Section 9 prohibits the take of endangered species within the United States or the territorial sea of the United States, and on the high seas. "Take" is defined by the ESA as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct" (16 U.S.C. §1536(18)). ESA Sections 4, 6, 7, and 10 provide exceptions to the take prohibition of ESA-listed species. Of particular relevance for fisheries bycatch is Section 7, which provides that "Each Federal agency shall ... insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency ... is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat of such species ..." (16 U.S.C. §1536(a)(2)).

Under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, Federal agencies must consult with NMFS on activities that may affect a listed species. For Federally managed fisheries, NMFS must formally consult with itself on the effects fisheries management plans may have on listed species and their critical habitat. These interagency, or Section 7, consultations are designed to assist Federal agencies in fulfilling their duty to ensure their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of a species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. Should an action be determined by NMFS to jeopardize a species or adversely modify critical habitat, NMFS will suggest Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RPA) that would not violate Section 7(a)(2). Biological Opinions document NMFS' opinion as to whether the Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Where appropriate, biological opinions provide an exemption for the "take" of listed species while specifying the extent of take allowed, the Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPM)

necessary to minimize impacts from the Federal action, and the Terms and Conditions with which the action agency must comply. These RPMs may include observer program coverage.

In 2007, the NMFS Office of Protected Resources developed a regulation requiring vessels fishing in areas in state or Federal waters where sea turtles may be present and interactions likely to occur to carry observers when requested to do so by NMFS [ESA Sec. 222 and 223]. Previous ESA regulations only allowed for limited, temporary monitoring of vessels suspected of sea turtle interactions, usually only after an emergency event, such as a mass sea turtle stranding, or under a Biological Opinion. Consequently, NMFS has had to rely on MMPA and MSA authorities to obtain observer coverage in some fisheries. This approach has not always allowed the agency to monitor fisheries it needed to (e.g., non-Federal MMPA Category III fisheries) or to design monitoring programs to optimize data collection of sea turtle bycatch data. The 2007 regulation will enable NMFS to learn more about interactions between fishing operations and sea turtles, to evaluate existing measures to reduce sea turtle takes, and to determine whether additional measures to address sea turtle bycatch may be necessary.

Requirements for economic analysis are also included in the ESA. For example, to designate critical habitat, and make revisions thereto, the Secretary is to consider the economic impact [50 C.F.R. § 424.12(a)].

NEPA

NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider the interactions of natural and human environments, and the impacts on both systems of any changes due to governmental activities or policies. This consideration is to be done through the use of "a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will ensure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences in planning and in decision-making" [NEPA Sec. 102(2)(A)] and, further, to "identify and develop methods and procedures,, which will insure that presently unquantified environmental amenities and values may be given appropriate consideration in decision making along with economic and technical considerations" [NEPA Sec. 102(2)(B)]. In addition, NOAA's NEPA implementation guidelines require that the environmental impact statement (required under NEPA Sec. 102(2)(C)(i)) must include biological, ecological, economic, and social consequences.³ The observer programs provide some of the information that is required to meet these NEPA requirements.

EO 12866 "Regulatory Planning and Review"

EO 12866 requires an assessment of all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives. Under EO 12866, when choosing among regulatory approaches, agencies should select those approaches that maximize net benefits [EO 12866 Sec. 1(a)]. In addition, EO 12866 states that "Each agency shall base its decisions on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic and other information concerning the need for, and consequences of, the intended regulation" [EO 12866 Sec. 1(b)(7)].

This executive order, combined with the MSA national standard on use of best scientific information available, obligate NMFS to seek clearance for the collection of the information

³ For NOAA's NEPA implementation guidelines see, NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 216-6, "Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act," May 20, 1999.

necessary to meet decision standards set out in the national policies outlined above. Regardless of what action the Councils and Secretary take with respect to management of Federal fisheries for 2009 and beyond (including no action alternatives), biological and economic information is needed to meet the requirements listed above; and, in many cases, the NMFS observer programs are the only reliable and/or most effective sources for such information.

RFA

Whenever an agency is required to publish general notice of proposed rulemaking for any proposed rule, it is required to prepare an initial regulatory flexibility analysis that describes: (1) the impact of the proposed rule on small entities [Sec. 603(a)] and (2) any significant alternatives to the proposed rule which accomplish the stated objectives of applicable statutes and that minimize any significant economic impact of the proposed rule on small entities [Sec. 603(c)]. Each final regulatory flexibility analysis is required to describe the steps the agency has taken to minimize the significant economic impact on small entities consistent with the stated objectives of applicable statutes [Sec. 604(a)(5)]. In addition, several Sections of the RFA require Federal agencies to analyze the effects of regulations to determine whether an action will have or has had "a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities". For example, "Each year, each agency shall publish in the Federal Register a list of the rules which have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities" [Sec. 610(c)]. Cost and revenue information for the specific activity in question (fish harvesting and processing), as well as some level of general information on the full range of income producing activities in which firms are engaged are necessary to effectively conduct these types of RFA analyses.

Other Information Collections from the Same Universe of Respondents

NMFS and state fishery management agencies collect information that will be used in conjunction with the information that will be provided by this collection. For example, the landed catch and effort data that are collected by the state agencies and the data obtained by observer programs through direct observations or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations are used with the gear and performance information provided by this collection to estimate bycatch and total catch. Similarly, the information on the physical and operational characteristics of fishing vessels are used to test for, and as necessary adjust for, any sampling bias for the observed vessels and trips. This is important, for example, when logbook or landings data are used to extrapolate observed bycatch to unobserved portions of the fishery. In addition, observer programs provide an independent data source that can be used to verify the accuracy of information obtained by self reporting programs, such as logbook and landings report programs.

Coordination among NMFS and state information collections for the fisheries is used to consolidate requirements on the respondents to this collection. The Interstate Commissions were created in part to facilitate such coordination.

2. Explain how, by whom, how frequently, and for what purpose the information will be used. If the information collected will be disseminated to the public or used to support information that will be disseminated to the public, then explain how the collection complies with all applicable Information Quality Guidelines.

How the information will be used

The information collected will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch in Federally managed fisheries; (2) monitor interactions with protected species (e.g., marine mammals, sea turtles, and endangered or threatened fish and seabirds) in Federally managed fisheries and in select state managed fisheries; (3) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (4) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (5) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management measures and alternative proposed management measures; and (6) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous five uses.

Comprehensive catch and bycatch information is an essential component of all stock assessments and is necessary for the development of effective fisheries and protected resource management strategies. At-sea observer programs are the most reliable method of collecting bycatch information. The MSA requires implementation of annual catch limits for all Federally managed fisheries. Bycatch data collected by at-sea observer programs are an essential component in the estimation of total catch because bycatch approaches or exceeds landed catch in some fisheries and is a significant part of the total catch in many other fisheries. Analysis of catch, bycatch, and fishing effort information collected by observers also supports development of and recommendations within Take Reduction Plans, Biological Opinions, and Fishery Management Plans. Observer data are also used to assess the impact of experimental fisheries, monitor the effectiveness of bycatch reduction technologies, and enforce fisheries regulations.

In general, analysis of cost, revenue, and employment information for fishing vessels will assist analysts in estimating:

1. Net economic value to the nation
2. Economic health of the fishery
3. Effects on business efficiency
4. Community economic impacts
5. Firms' economic dependence on the fishery
6. Economic impacts of proposed regulations, including area closures, gear restrictions, and catch or bycatch restrictions
7. Distribution of economic impacts from proposed regulations and, in particular, the significance of impacts on small businesses
8. Likelihood of bankruptcies
9. Effects on international competitiveness.

The following is a summary of the need for each type of question in Attachment B. In addition to listing the types of questions that may be asked, that Attachment indicates which questions are mandatory and provides references to the statutes mandating responses to specific sets of questions.

Safety Questions: Safety information is required to ensure that an observer can be safely deployed on a specific fishing vessel or stationed at a specific processing plant and work safely once assigned to a specific vessel or plant.

Other Pre-Deployment/Logistical Questions: Pre-deployment questionnaires are utilized by observer program staff when a vessel is selected to be observed. The responses provide critical information on vessel departure point, return point, and communications (to coordinate observer deployment); planned fishing locations (in order to ensure that appropriate coverage levels are achieved for all areas); and Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Decal number (Decals are required for all vessels in an observed fishery).

Vessel Characteristics: Information on vessel characteristic (e.g., vessel name, permit or license number, documentation number, length, year built, hull construction, tonnage, horsepower) is necessary to help identify specific vessels. While much of the information on physical descriptors such as hull type, tonnages, and length are available from other sources, these data are often outdated, missing or conflicting. Such information can be used in stratifying vessels; and, as noted above, vessel characteristics information is used in assessing and adjusting for any bias in the selection of the vessels that are observed.

Ownership: The vessel owner's name and address are collected for contact information. Questions regarding ownership are useful in terms of social interest; however, evaluation of owner participation also plays a role in predicting whether marginal vessels will stay in business. For example, the owner of a vessel with zero or slightly negative net profits may decide to remain in the fishery if the owner is deriving a wage from personally operating a vessel. On the other hand, an owner who hires a skipper may be more likely to choose to exit the fishery under a similar circumstance.

Effort/Gear Descriptors: These questions are useful in helping the analyst describe and quantify effort on the fishing grounds in terms of the types and amounts of gear deployed. This information could be used in developing models of efficient fleet size to support such activities as fleet reduction programs, as well as provide information on the level of capitalization within the various sectors of a fishery. Effort information often is collected through direct observations, which includes obtaining the information from the fishing vessel's logbook. However, if a vessel is not required to maintain a logbook that the observer can access (e.g., in state fisheries with MMPA observers), the observer asks questions to obtain that information from the captain/crew. Effort information and gear descriptors are used to estimate and extrapolate catch and bycatch for unobserved hauls and unobserved portions of the fleet, where coverage levels are less than 100%. Even where coverage levels are 100%, this information is still necessary, as some vessels may be considered un-observable due to safety concerns.

Trip Level Operating Costs: This information is necessary to estimate the net value of participation in the fishery; calculate producer surplus and short-run economic and financial profit measures; assess the change in net benefits caused by proposed management actions; and

is used in the Fishery Economic Assessment Model and IMPLAN⁴ Model to estimate economic impacts.

Catch/Revenue: As noted above, the MSA requires FMPs to contain a description of the fishery including actual and potential revenues from the fishery. Revenue information, in conjunction with cost information, is necessary to derive net economic value. Additionally, revenue information from all activities can be used to allocate fixed costs between different activities and as part of the assessment of relative dependence on the fishery.

For vessels delivering to motherships, these questions are particularly important because in some fisheries there are no fish ticket records for at-sea landings. Information on revenue from other fisheries is needed because of similar deficiencies in fish ticket records, and the lack of access to confidential information for fisheries in some states.

In addition, if the respondents calculate their net income based on their other answers and the result is out-of-line with their experience, they may stop to consider whether they have answered the preceding questions on costs and revenue correctly and entirely. Further, if respondents provide previously calculated net income without checking for consistency, or analysts compare the reported values with fish ticket revenue information where available, analysts may derive a result different from the survey responses alerting them to some degree of incompleteness in either the survey or the responses to the questions.

Regional Impact: One assumption generally made in assessing impacts on coastal communities is that all employees live in the coastal area of the vessel's homeport and, consequently, crew share is spent in the vessel's homeport. Similarly, current models assume all impacts occur in the port of landing or in a homeport (for vessels delivering to motherships). This information is particularly important in assigning community impacts for vessels delivering to motherships but is also useful when the vessel is active in multiple ports. While this simplifying assumption was useful in the early development of the models used in fisheries income impact assessments, more recent versions of these models allow analysts to relax this assumption. The information solicited by these questions is necessary to make use of this ability to more accurately estimate the distribution of effects. These questions are intended to address the issue with better quality information that is more evenly distributed across sectors.

Crew Size: This information is of interest in terms of effect on the fishing community and general community employment. Income-related questions will allow a systematic assessment of the degree to which individuals are engaged and dependent on fishing-related activities.

Information users and purpose and frequency of use

The information will be used by NMFS staff, as well as by others who are authorized to access this confidential information. It will be used for the purposes of developing, implementing, revising, and monitoring fishery management plans and actions that are taken in support of the MSA, MMPA, and ESA. The information will be used on a frequent and ongoing basis in

⁴ The Fishery Economic Assessment Model and IMPLAN® (IMPact analysis for PLANning) are economic impact assessment modeling systems, which allows the user to build economic models to estimate the impacts of economic changes in their states, counties, or communities.

meeting NMFS stewardship responsibilities identified in the MSA, MMPA, ESA, NEPA, other applicable law, and treaties.

Complies with all applicable information quality guidelines

As explained in the preceding paragraphs, the information gathered has utility. NMFS will retain control over the information and safeguard it from improper access, modification, and destruction, consistent with NOAA standards for confidentiality, privacy, and electronic information. See response to Question 10 of this Supporting Statement for more information on confidentiality and privacy. The information collection is designed to yield data that meet all applicable information quality guidelines. Although the information collected will not be disseminated directly to the public, results may be used in scientific, management, technical or general informational publications. All such uses of this information will be subject to: (1) the quality control measures and pre-dissemination review pursuant to Sec. 515 of Public Law 106-554 (Data Quality Act) and (2) NOAA Information Quality Guidelines for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information which it disseminates. Among other things, the NOAA guidelines establish an administrative mechanism allowing affected persons to seek and obtain correction of information that does not comply with OMB or NOAA applicable guidelines.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques or other forms of information technology.

Typically, the information is collected during brief conversations between the observer and the captain/crew of the fishing vessel; and the form or list of questions is not given to the captain/crew; instead, it is used by the observer to ensure that the appropriate questions are asked. Therefore, in this case, the electronic submission of responses is not possible. In most cases, the forms or lists of questions are included in the observer manuals. Manuals can be found on the National Observer Program webpage:
http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st4/nop/Observer_training_resources.html.

The major exceptions are the questions observer program staff/contractors ask fishing vessel permit holders/captain in order to plan observer deployments, the questions that are asked to evaluate observer performance, and the reimbursement forms (e.g., for the purpose of reimbursing the captain/owner for observer meals). The first can include questions concerning the logistics of planned fishing trips, vessel safety, vessel call #s, and means of reaching the vessel at sea in case of emergencies. Often, the potential respondents are mailed a form and asked to complete it and return it by fax. The observer evaluation questions and the reimbursement forms typically are mailed or handed to the vessel captain and returned by mail. NMFS is exploring options for the electronic submission of these two types of information. In addition, when economic information is not available during the trip, the captain/owner may be asked to provide that information via a mail follow-up survey. The use of electronic submission of this type of information will be explored.

Observers typically use paper forms because the technology for electronic data entry at sea is very expensive and not available in all cases. However, NMFS has plans to expand the use of electronic data entry by observers. For example, by 2010 the Northeast Fisheries Observer

Program (NEFOP) expects the majority of the data to be recorded electronically on rugged laptops. Similarly, the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) will begin testing rugged laptops or handheld devices in 2010 for use in automatic, electronic data collection. Laptops/handhelds will be phased in over a two to three year period for all WCGOP at-sea data collection.

Non-confidential summaries of the information or of information generated using this information will often be made available to the public over the Internet.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

Federal and State collection programs were reviewed to ensure that the questions covered in this collection request do not duplicate information provided by other collection programs. The economic, gear, safety, and other questions asked by observers were designed to provide types of information that are not available from or similar to the information provided by other collection programs. An extensive consultative process is used by each NMFS observer program to determine if the information is available from another collection program. In most cases, this determination is made through an open public process that includes input from a NMFS Regional Office, a NMFS Fisheries Science Center, a Council (including its Scientific and Statistical Committee and other advisory panels), an Interstate Commission, one or more State fishery management agencies, the fishing industry, environmental organizations, and others interested in or affected by the conservation and management of living marine resources.

5. If the collection of information involves small businesses or other small entities, describe the methods used to minimize burden.

Since most of the respondents are considered small businesses, separate requirements based on size of business have not been developed. The methods used to minimize the burden include: (1) limiting the questions that are asked; (2) asking questions that can be answered readily and that do not require additional recordkeeping costs; (3) having the observer ask the questions at times that are convenient for the captain/crew of the fishing vessel; and (4) using plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents.

6. Describe the consequences to the Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently.

Fisheries observers are trained professionals who monitor and record catch and bycatch data and collect other biological and economic data from U.S. fishing vessels and processing facilities. Data from observers are used to understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them. Observer data are necessary for determining levels of bycatch of protected species and non-target fish stocks, which can be a major factor affecting mortality rates and, thus, population status and recovery of protected species. Information on target species, gear types used, fishing vessel locations, etc. are necessary to calculate fishing effort, an important component of bycatch estimation. When these data cannot be collected through direct observation (such as when an observer is off-duty), or when the information is known only to the captain and crew (e.g., target species), questions must occasionally be asked of the captain/crew. This includes questions that are asked in order to: (1) ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the observer programs and (2) maintain the safety of

fisheries observers aboard fishing vessels and at processing plants. To effectively and efficiently meet the NMFS stewardship responsibilities, including those identified in the MSA, MMPA, ESA, and NEPA, NMFS observer programs must continue to collect these data.

Trip level economic data, including cost, revenue, and employment data, are among the data required to monitor and predict the economic effects of specific conservation and management actions. Therefore, the ability of NMFS to design and implement actions that will assist in meeting its stewardship responsibilities for living marine resources and their habitat would be limited severely if observer programs do not continue to collect this information.

The gear, safety, and other non-economic questions asked by observers are critical for the safety of the observers or are used to make the information gathered by observers through direct observation more useful. Therefore, these questions are required for safe and effective observer programs, without which, some of the key biological and economic information used in meeting the Agency's stewardship responsibilities would not be available.

Most of the requested information is trip specific, can vary by trip, and is used with directly observable or reported trip level data to monitor the biological and economic characteristic of observed fishing trips and to estimate the characteristics of unobserved trips. In some cases, haul-specific target, gear, catch, and effort questions are asked to expand the information for observed hauls to all hauls during a trip. Therefore, if the collection is conducted less frequently, the Agency's ability to effectively monitor the full trip characteristics of observed trips and to estimate the characteristics for unobserved trips would be decreased substantially.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

The collection will be conducted in a manner consistent with OMB Guidelines.

8. Provide information on the PRA Federal Register Notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received in response to that notice and describe the actions taken by the agency in response to those comments. Describe the efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

A Federal Register Notice published on March 4, 2009 (73 FR 9387) solicited public comments.

Public comments were received from two individuals, Mr. Chris Oliver, Executive Director, North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) and Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Executive Director, At-sea Processors Association (APA). The comments focused on their opposition to using fishery observers, specifically North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program (NPGOP) observers, to collect trip level economic data. Other than stating his opposition to that use of NPGOP observers, Mr. Oliver principally addresses the importance of using the NPFMC process to make decision concerning how to collect economic data for the NPFMC's fisheries and questions whether the economic information included in this information collection request is needed for fishery management purpose. Ms. Madsen's comments are similar to Mr. Oliver's

(strongly opposed to that use of NPGOP observers, question the need for these economic data, and supports the NPFMC process for developing economic data collection programs for the NPFMC's fisheries). However, Ms. Madsen also presents several reasons why she thinks that using NPGOP observers to collect economic data would adversely affect the ability of NPGOP observers to collect biological and ecological data that are "essential to successful management of the groundfish resource in Alaska." The following NMFS responses address the three issues raised by both sets of comments, as well as Ms. Madsen's stated reasons for her concern.

1. Several observer programs outside of Alaska have demonstrated over a number of years and for a broad range of fisheries that observers can effectively and efficiently collect trip level economic data without adversely affecting their ability to collect biological and ecological data. Although, some trip level economic data are observable and are not subject to the PRA, most of that data is collected by having the observers ask captains for specific information that is subject to the PRA.
2. Because the ability of observers to do that can vary by fishery, a variety of factors will be considered in determining if and how observers should be used to collect a range of economic data for a specific fishery.
3. NMFS agrees that the NPFMC, with substantial assistance from NMFS, has developed effective economic data collection programs for some of its fisheries and NMFS is working with the NPFMC to expand such programs to more of the NPFMC's fisheries.
4. NMFS believes that the use of observers should be considered in developing/expanding some aspects of the economic data collection programs for NPFMC fisheries.
5. The NPFMC, including its Comprehensive Data Collection Committee on which the APA is represented, the Alaska Regional Office, and the Alaska Fisheries Science Center will continue to be involved in assessing the necessary economic data elements and the best mechanisms to collect them for specific fisheries under the NPFMC's jurisdiction.
6. The information collection request that has been developed for the NMFS observer programs is intended to facilitate having observers collect economic data in all fisheries for which such a use of observers is determined to be appropriate.
7. Economic data are required to meet the agency's and the Councils' stewardship responsibilities for the conservation and management of living marine resources under the MSA, MMPA, ESA, NEPA, RFA, EO 12866, and other applicable law. The NPFMC's successful efforts to develop economic data collection programs for some of its fisheries and its ongoing efforts to develop "a comprehensive economic data collection program", which will include most to all of its other fisheries, demonstrate the NPFMC is aware of and taking action to address the need for economic data.
8. NMFS agrees that the NPGOP is widely recognized as one of the best and most comprehensive fishery observer programs in the world and encourages the consideration of additional uses of this large and effective observer program.
9. NMFS agrees that the success of the NPGOP turns on the professional and co-operative relationship that is maintained between the observers and the vessels on which they serve and that the recognition by skippers and crews that the biological data collected by observers is essential to successful management of the groundfish resource in Alaska; and NMFS believes that skippers and crews can be made more aware that economic data is also essential for that purpose.
10. NPGOP observers currently collect some data which is useful in economic analyses. For example, they collect effort and crew size data. Recently, the NPGOP also took steps to refine trip level effort information at the request of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center

(AFSC) economists. NMFS believes that the NPFMC should consider using observers to collect more complete economic data.

11. NMFS agrees that observers may need additional training if they are to collect more economic data and do it effectively and efficiently; but that would depend on the scope of the data collection activity. As noted, NPGOP observers collect information as part of their regular duties which is useful in economic analyses and collecting this data has not impacted existing data collection or required additional training time. However, the training time necessary is dependent on the scope of the collections so we acknowledge that additional training could be necessary should data collections expand. In other observer programs, the time required to collect basic trip level economic data has not prevented the observers from collecting the required biological and ecological data, in part because the economic data collection can occur during a part of the trip in which the observer is not involved in collecting other types of information. The observers are trained to protect the confidentiality of the data they collect and currently collect “competitively sensitive and otherwise confidential data”, such as tow-specific catch data; and this has been done without “undermining the professional relationship and trust that has developed between the fishermen and the NPGOP observers”. Similarly, the more complete collection of economic data in other fisheries has not had such an effect. However, NMFS agrees that these are among the potential effects that should be considered in determining if and how observers should collect more complete economic data.

The public comments do not identify deficiencies in the information collection planned by NMFS or its intent to use the proposed information collection to, among other things, facilitate the extended use of fishery observers to collect basic trip level economic data when such a use of observers is determined to be appropriate. However, the comments do assist NMFS in emphasizing the importance of considering a broad range of factors for determining how and whether to use observers to collect more complete economic data in specific fisheries.

A number of people, both within agencies and the industry were consulted on the types of data elements necessary and available, recordkeeping disclosures, confidentiality of the data and timing of data collection exercises.

Each observer program included an extensive consultative process to determine: (1) whether the information is available from another collection program; (2) whether an observer program is the appropriate data collection mechanism; (3) the appropriate frequency of collection; (4) whether the instructions and recordkeeping requirements were clear; (5) the appropriate disclosure rules and or reporting format; and (6) what data elements should be included in this collection. In most cases, these determinations were made through an open public process that included input from a NMFS Regional Office, a NMFS Fisheries Science Center, a Council (including its Scientific and Statistical Committee and other advisory panels), an Interstate Commission, one or more State fishery management agencies, the fishing industry, environmental organizations, and others interested in or affected by the conservation and management of living marine resources. That consultative process typically is also used to review each collection program and suggest improvements to it.

9. Explain any decisions to provide payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payments or gifts are made.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

Information obtained through this collection for fisheries conservation and management will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Information provided through this collection for monitoring incidental takes of marine mammals will be kept confidential as required under Section 118(d)(8) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1387(d)(8)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 229, Subpart A.

Observers are trained to provide this assurance of confidentiality as part of their trip protocol and it will also be included in the PRA statements (see Attachment C).

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide an estimate in hours of the burden of the collection of information.

The estimates are of the average annual burden hours that would occur during the next three years (approximately October 2009 - September 2012) under the current and planned collection of each NMFS observer program for the following six types of information collections: (1) standardized questions of fishing vessel captains/crew or fish processing plant managers/staff; (2) questions asked by observer program staff/contractors to plan observer deployments; (3) forms that are completed by observers and that fishing vessel captains are asked to review and sign; (4) questionnaires to evaluate observer performance; (5) information used to ensure that the data for a specific trip are not provided to an individual (e.g., fisherman) who does not have authority to obtain that data under the confidentiality requirements of the MSA and/or the MMPA; and (6) information on reimbursement forms. NMFS has received PRA clearances for the second and fourth types of collections for some observer programs (OMB Control Numbers 0648-0423, 0648-0202, and 0648-0374 for deployment questions, and 0648-0550 and 0648-0536 for observer evaluations). The burden hours for the observer program questions in those collections are included in this national, comprehensive PRA submission and will be deleted from those currently approved programs once this submission is approved.

The questions asked to collect these types of information are presented in Attachment B. Some questions (e.g., target species for a set and catch for unobserved sets) are set-specific and asked several times during a trip. Some questions are asked once per trip or deployment. Other questions are asked only on trips in which the observer cannot collect the information through direct observations or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such

direct observations. The estimate of total burden hours (17,455 hours) is based on: (1) the projected number of 4,323 respondents (4,122 observed vessels + 21 observed fish processing plants + 180 processing plants briefly contacted); (2) the projected number of 14,082 responses (13,927 trips (brief contacts to plants are treated as part of trips, not counted as separate responses) + 155 deployments to processing plants); (3) an estimate of the average burden minutes per trip if all the questions that were asked on or associated with a specific trip were answered (about 81 minutes), including the questions asked at fish processing plants and (4) the expected response rates (93% overall);. See Table 1 below, with totals on the continuing page.

Table 1. Average annual estimates for all six types of current and planned collections by NMFS Observer Program, 2009-2012. (Updated May 26, 2009)

	Alaska		Northeast	Northwest		Pacific Islands
	NPGOP	AMMOP	NEFOP	ASHOP	WCGOP	PIRIOP
Active vessels in fisheries with a NMFS observer program	1,350	80	15,000	15	1,400	190
Observed vessels	296	80	2,038	15	1,000	186
Observed trips	4,483	250	6,171	110	1,500	386
Fish processing plants in fisheries with a NMFS observer program	62					
Observed fish processing plants	21					
Deployments to fish processing plants	155					
Other fish processing plants contacted	0					
Burden minutes/trip	60	15	105	30	60	80
Estimated burden hours with 100% response	4,483	63	10,799	55	1,500	515
Response rate	99%	95%	90%	99%	99%	90%
Response rate adjusted estimated burden hours	4,438	59	9,719	54	1,485	463

NPGOP: North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program
 AMMOP: Alaska Marine Mammal Observer program
 NEFOP: Northeast Fisheries Observer Program
 ASHOP: At-Sea Hake Observer Program (Northwest)
 WCGOP: West Coast Groundfish Observer Program
 PIROP: Pacific Islands Region Observer Program

Table 1. Continued.

	Southeast			Southwest		All NMFS Observer Programs
	SFOP	POP	GOM RFSOP	Funded Programs	Unfunded Programs	
Active vessels in fisheries with a NMFS observer program	175	90	3,577	51	1,200	23,128
Observed vessels	85	62	164	36	160	4,122
Observed trips	180	150	244	48	405	13,927
Fish processing plants in fisheries with a NMFS observer program						900
Observed fish processing plants						21
Deployments to fish processing plants						155
Other fish processing plants contacted						180
Burden minutes/trip	75	80	105	60	60	81
Estimated burden hours with 100% response	225	200	427	48	405	18,719
Response rate	100%	100%	100%	85%	85%	93%
Response rate adjusted estimated burden hours	225	200	427	41	344	17,455

SE SFOP: Southeast Shark Fishery Observer Program

SE POP: Southeast Pelagic Observer Program

GOM RFSOP: Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish and Shrimp Observer Program

SWROP: Southwest Region Observer Program

The burden hour estimates are for all the NMFS observer program information collections that require a PRA clearance, including the collections that currently have such a clearance.

The estimated burden minutes per trip equal the average time per trip actually taken up by gathering information through questions, including pre-trip notifications and follow-up forms. The burden hours for processing plants are included in the burden per trip estimates. Alaska is the only Region in which observers are deployed at processing plants. However, in that and other

Regions, an observer who has been deployed on a fishing vessel may request minimal information from a processing plant, such as the fish ticket number for a fish ticket (landings report) for the trip that was just observed. Therefore, the total number of fish processing plants in the NPGOP fisheries (62) is provided to put the number of plants with observers (21) in perspective (i.e., about 1/3 of those plants are observed). There is a 0 in the other plants contacted for the NPGOP because NPGOP observers typically do not contact other plants.

Similar information is not provided for the other programs because they don't have observers deployed at plants.

The estimate of the total number of plants in observed fisheries (900) is based on the total number of plants for all fisheries in the US. For the other observer programs, estimates are not available by program for either the number of fish processing plants in observed fisheries or the number of plants asked an occasional question by an observer deployed on a fishing vessel principally because they are not relevant for the other programs. However, an estimate of the number of plants that observers may occasionally ask a single question (180) is provided. For the purpose of this collection, the term "fish processing plant" includes fish buyers/dealers.

The 160 vessels and 405 trips for the "Unfunded" SW Observer Programs are additional vessels and trips the Southwest Region would like to observe and will observe if it can get funding to do so. They are included because obtaining the funds for these programs is a high priority for the Southwest Region and could well happen.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to the respondents or record-keepers resulting from the collection (excluding the value of the burden hours in Question 12 above).

Capital and Start-Up Costs

There are no start-up, capital, or maintenance costs associated with this collection. No new or specialized equipment is needed to respond to this collection.

Operations and Maintenance Costs

Most of the information is collected by observers directly from fishing vessel captains/crews through one or more brief conversation during a fishing trip when it is convenient for the captain/crew. Gathering and maintaining the information in this collection is part of the customary and usual business practices of fishing vessel captains/crews. This is also true for the limited information obtained from processing plant managers/staff, as well as the pre-deployment information obtained from fishing vessel operators or permit holders.

Excluding labor costs, the total operations and maintenance costs will be limited to approximately \$1,000, which is the cost of faxing the pre-deployment information for about 600 fishing trips and mailing observer evaluation surveys and reimbursement forms to NMFS.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government.

This collection imposes no additional costs beyond staff time.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

This is a new request for a collection clearance.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

The information collected is not expected to be disseminated directly to the public; however, results may be used in scientific, management, technical, or general informational publications.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons why display would be inappropriate.

NA.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19 of the OMB 83-I.

NA.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g. establishments, State and local governmental units, households, or persons) in the universe and the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form. The tabulation must also include expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection has been conducted before, provide the actual response rate achieved.

The information will be collected for a fishing vessel from its Federal permit holder, captain, or crew; or it will be collected for a fish processing plant from its manager or staff. Therefore, fishing vessels and processing plants are the entities for which information will be collected. The potential respondent universe is the set of fishing vessels and fish processing plants that operate in the fisheries with NMFS observer programs. It is estimated that on average there will be approximately 23,100 active fishing vessels and 900 fish processing plants in such fisheries in 2009-2012. From this universe, the sample sizes are expected to be 4,122 fishing vessels and about 200 processing plants; however, observers are expected to be deployed at only 21 processing plants, all 21 of which are in Alaska. Other fish processing plants in the sample will be contacted and on average asked less than one question per trip for the fishing vessels delivering to the plant. Some questions are asked once a trip, some are asked several times during a trip to collect haul/set specific information, and others are only asked on trips for which the information cannot be collected readily through direct observation or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations. For the purpose of this collection, all the information collected for or associated with a single trip or deployment to a fish processing plant is considered one response. For example, the pre-deployment information, the information provided to an observer, the information in a completed observer evaluation survey, and any reimbursement and data release information provided for a specific trip is considered to be one response. Therefore, the expected number of responses (14,082) is the sum of the number of observed trips and the number of observer deployments at fish processing plants because some useful information will be provided by the responses to the questions included in this collection on each observed trip or deployment. Similarly, some

information is expected to be provided for each observed vessel (i.e., each vessel with an observer for one or more trips) and for each observed or contacted fish processing plant; therefore the total number of respondents is expected to be 4,323.

Agencies are encouraged to use the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) standard formulas in calculating and reporting response rates in their Information Collection Requests (ICR); however, agencies may use other formulas as long as the method used to calculate response rates is documented in the ICR (see OMB Guidance on Agency Survey and Statistical Information Collections at: http://www.cio.noaa.gov/itmanagement/OMBSurveyGuidance_0106.pdf).

The AAPOR's 2008 report, *Standard Definitions Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates for Surveys*, states that how various types of incomplete responses are classified may depend on the objectives of the survey and the relative importance of various questions; and that report defines a response rate (RR2) in which partial responses are included in the numerator of the response rate calculation. In calculating the response rate for this ICR, the treatment of incomplete responses is particularly important because, although complete information will be provided in many responses, at least some useful information will be provided in each response (i.e., for each observed trip or deployment). The response rate used in this ICR is a modified version of the RR2 definition. Instead of giving each sufficiently complete response a value of 1 to count the number of incomplete responses to be included in the numerator, as is done with RR2, the value is scaled by the extent to which each incomplete response is complete. For example, a response that is 50% complete would be given a value of 0.5 in counting the number of incomplete responses included in the numerator. For this collection, this method is more appropriate than arbitrarily identifying an acceptable level of completeness for a response and giving it a value of 0 or 1 for the purposes of determining the value of the numerator. The denominator is the total number of trips on vessels that are determined to meet the observer programs' safety and/or size requirements, plus the number of deployments to fish processing plants. The small numbers of fishing vessels that are selected to carry an observer during a given year but do not, for example for safety or logistical reasons, are not included in the denominator when calculating the response rates estimates for this ICR. Had that been done, the estimated overall response rates would have been marginally lower.

The overall response rate for the collection as a whole is expected to be 93% because not all respondents will respond to all the questions. The response rates have varied by observer program, type of question, and year, but in 2008, the overall response rate was 93% and that overall response rate is expected to be maintained in 2009-2012.

Active vessels in fisheries with NMFS observer programs	23,128
Observed vessels	4,122
Observed trips	13,927
Fish processing plants in fisheries with NMFS observer programs	900
Observed fish processing plants	21
Observer deployments to fish processing plants ¹	155
Other fish processing plants contacted	180
Response rate	93%
Number of respondents	4,323
Number of responses	14,082

1. During 2009-2012, there are expected to be on average about 7.4 deployments of observers per year to each of the 21 observed fish processing plants in Alaska.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection, including: the statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection; the estimation procedure; the degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification; any unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures; and any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

Statistical Methodology for Stratification and Sample Selection

Fisheries may occur year-round, or may be seasonal in nature. Before an observer program is implemented for a fishery, coverage levels and sampling methods are determined. Resources generally do not allow the deployment of observers on all fishing vessels and all trips in an observed fishery. Because only a portion of the vessels or trips is observed, observer programs have developed methods to achieve a representative sample. Due to variations in fisheries (e.g. gear types used, length of fishing trip, area of fishery), the sampling methods vary between programs. Specific details by fishery are presented in Attachment C.

In general, programs identify primary, secondary, and tertiary sampling units (e.g. vessel, trip, and haul/set) and establish sampling frames to meet coverage requirements. Coverage levels for fisheries may be specified by regulation, determined by available resources and program costs, or set to meet certain precision targets (e.g. 30% coefficient of variation (CV) for protected species).

The vessel sampling frame is often derived from a list of active fishing vessels or fishing permits. Programs may stratify the sample by area, gear type, calendar quarter, and/or other variables. Vessel selection methods include census; stratified random sampling (with or without replacement); systematic random sampling, or ad hoc sampling, including at times opportunistic sampling. Once a vessel has been selected for coverage, an observer is assigned to a trip. Observers stay with the vessel for the entire trip. Sampling may occur for all hauls/sets, or observers may use sampling schemes (e.g. a random breaks table) to determine which hauls/sets to sample or sub-sample.

The Estimation Procedures

Some types of information, such as the safety, pre-deployment, and gear or vessel characteristics information, are not collected for statistical estimation purposes, other than perhaps for stratification purposes, but rather to provide vessel, haul, or trip-specific information. For example, the safety information is used to ensure that a vessel meets observer program's safety standards before an observer is deployed to or embarks on a specific vessel. Similarly, pre-deployment information (e.g. the expected date, time, and location of a vessel's departure) is used to ensure that observers can be effectively and efficiently deployed.

Other information collected from the observed vessels and trips will be used to estimate biological variables (e.g., catch and bycatch) and economic variables (e.g., variable operating cost and employment) for the fishery as a whole. In this case, the estimation process relies on the stratification of observed vessels and trips, as well as unobserved vessel and trips, based on physical and operational characteristics of the both sets of vessels and trips. Often ratio estimators are used and applied by stratum. For example, the ratio of discarded catch to landed catch for observed trips and estimates of landings for all trips from landings reports is often used to estimate the discarded catch associated with all landings. Other estimates are based on multivariate functional relationships that are estimated based on data for observed vessel and trips and then applied to other vessels and trips. These are but two generic methods that make use of the observer information for estimation purposes. The methods, which can vary by program, circumstances (e.g. the availability of auxiliary information for all trips and vessels), and the variable(s) to be estimated, typically are subject to external review. That review can include a Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee or the review that is required for a paper to be accepted for publication.

The Degree of Accuracy Needed For the Purpose Described In the Justification

The desired degree of accuracy, and corresponding desired sample size and response rate, depend upon the application for which the data are being used. A basic application of the survey data will be the inference of unobserved population or sub-population mean values from the observed sample mean values. The expected sample sizes and response rates, which are limited by a variety of factors, will result in estimates that are sufficiently accurate for many purposes. For example, given a population of 2,842 vessels in the Federally managed Northeast fisheries covered by the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program and assuming a margin of error of 5% and a confidence level of 90%, the minimum sample size is 248 vessels. If the confidence levels are increased to 95% and 99%, minimum sample sizes increase to 339 and 539, respectively. The largest of these minimum sample size scenarios (a sample size of 539) can be reached with a response rate of about 36% of the approximately 1,500 fishing vessels in the Federally managed fisheries that are expected to be observed on average in 2009-2012. The other fishing vessels that will be observed (approximately 540) will be in state managed fisheries.

Three reasons can be identified for desiring higher response rates than those needed to support inference of population means from sample means.

- 1) Data from this survey will be used to develop a variety of economic models covering applications such as fleet efficiency and fishery participation. In these applications, error will arise not only from how well the data used for model development represents the

population, but also from model specification and estimation. Because it is not possible to completely avoid specification and estimation error in model development, there is good reason to desire a higher response rate and higher degree of accuracy in the data collection process.

- 2) Future applications of the data may require further disaggregating the population into smaller groups according to factors such as state of operation, gear type, or vessel size. Identification of all such future disaggregated data needs is not possible at the present time. A higher response and higher degree of accuracy in the current data collection process will facilitate such future population disaggregation.
- 3) When bycatch of a species occurs as a rare event within a fishery, higher levels of coverage may be necessary to achieve the appropriate level of precision. Because observer programs are broad based, this may result in higher response rates than those needed for other types of data.

Any Unusual Problems Requiring Specialized Sampling Procedures

There are multiple objectives for observer programs and both the nature of and priority for specific objectives can differ by observer program or by fishery. Meeting the diverse objective of a specific observer program can require specialized sampling procedures. Similarly, the objective of providing useful estimates of the bycatch of endangered species, where such bycatch consists of rare events, can require specialized sampling procedures. The specifics of the specialized sampling procedures used in the various NMFS observer programs can be found in Attachment D.

Any Use of Periodic (Less Frequent Than Annual) Data Collection Cycles To Reduce Burden

The observer information is used to estimate variables that can change substantially by area, season, and year. Therefore, the objectives for collecting observer data cannot be met by less frequent data collection.

3. Describe the methods used to maximize response rates and to deal with nonresponse. The accuracy and reliability of the information collected must be shown to be adequate for the intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided if they will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

Methods Used To Maximize Response Rates

A number of methods have been used to maximize response rates. First, most of the information will be collected directly by an observer on the fishing vessel at a time that it is convenient for the captain/crew. Second, a relatively small number of questions will be asked at any one time. Third, the observers are trained to help the captain/crew understand the purpose and need of the data collection and how data will be kept confidential. Fourth, respondents typically are asked to provide only information that is readily available to them and maintained for their own purposes. Fifth, extensive outreach activities will also help the response rate. Informing the fishing industry about the purpose and need for the collection will be important to the success of the

survey. Typically, outreach will occur on a number of levels: (1) news articles in trade magazines such as Commercial Fisheries News and National Fisherman and handouts made available at Council meetings and other fishing industry meetings will describe the purpose and need of the collection (2) similar information will be presented at fishing industry meetings; (3) on board observer interactions with fishermen; (4) a summary of data received in the previous collection will be made available to the target population; and (5) letters to permit holders are used to inform them of a new observer requirement or changes to the existing programs. Sixth, while the collection of economic information is voluntary for some observer programs, being associated with the observer program will increase the amount of attention it gets, and thus improve response rates over, for example, either an interview conducted by someone not associated with the fishery or a separate mail survey. Seventh, plain, coherent, and unambiguous terminology that is understandable to respondents is used. Eighth, responding to some of the questions (e.g., the safety questions) is mandatory for all programs; responding to all of the questions is mandatory for some observer programs (i.e., the Northeast Region (NER) and Southeast Region (SER) Observer Programs); and responding to all of the questions, except the economic questions, is mandatory for the Pacific Islands Region (PIR) Observer Program.

Strategy to Address Non-Response

A considerable amount of information is currently available about the physical and operational characteristics for the fishing vessels in the collection population. This information, which is available from other collections, will be used to compare that population with respondents, and to make any adjustments for systematic bias in survey response. Those other collections include: (1) landings reports or vessel logbook programs that provide individual vessel landing information, in both pounds landed and value of landings, by species, port, and gear, and often trip level effort data for all vessels in the survey population; (2) vessel monitoring systems (VMS) that provide additional operational characteristics; and (3) vessel permit systems and state and Coast Guard vessel registrations programs that provide information on the physical characteristics (e.g., gross tonnage, length, engine power, hull material, and year built) of individual fishing vessels. As a result, it is possible to compare respondents and non-respondents with regard to operational characteristics (e.g., seasonal patterns, species landed, and location of landings) and physical characteristics.

Adequacy of Accuracy and Reliability of Information for Intended Uses

NMFS needs to measure the biological and economic performance of Federally managed fisheries and to conduct effective observer programs in order to meet legal and regulatory requirements, support fisheries management decision making, and undertake biological and economic research. For many fisheries, observer programs provide the best source of some of the biological and economic information required for those purposes. The economic data are critical for constructing key economic performance measures such as profitability, capacity utilization, efficiency, productivity, and economic impacts. The data gathered and performance measures constructed will be used to address a wide range of issues. While the data will be used to comply with legal and regulatory requirements, these requirements do not specify a level of data accuracy. Minimum target response sizes for each population stratum are based on the objective of having a sample mean within 15% of the population mean at the 95% confidence level. It is believed that this provides a sufficient level of precision for inference of population

means from sample means. As explained in the response to question 2, even greater precision is highly desirable for other anticipated applications of the data.

Due to the methods that have been used to maximize response rates and to address non-response bias, the collections have in the past and are expected to continue to yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Tests are encouraged as effective means to refine collections, but if ten or more test respondents are involved OMB must give prior approval.

No pilot surveys will be necessary. These are not new collection programs and extensive efforts were undertaken both to develop this collection and to improve it over time.

5. Provide the name and telephone number of individuals consulted on the statistical aspects of the design, and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.

The required information is provided below by Observer Program.

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Jennifer Cahalan
Statistician
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission under contract to the FMA Division, 206-526-4185
Jennifer.Cahalan@noaa.gov

Five Observer Providers are certified to provide groundfish observers in Alaska. These companies employ the observers who actually collect information for the Agency, they are:

Alaskan Observers, Inc.
130 Nickerson, Suite 206
Seattle, WA 98109

MRAG Americas Inc.
1810 Shadetree Circle
Anchorage, AK 99502

NWO, Inc.
P.O. Box 624
Edmonds, WA 98020

Saltwater, Inc.
733 N. Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

TechSea International
2303 W. Commodore Way
Suite 306
Seattle, WA 98199

Further information on the Observer Providers is available at:
http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/FMA/observer_providers.htm

Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program

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WEST Inc.
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Saltwater Inc
contractor that deploys observers to the field
907.276-3241
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West Coast Groundfish Observer Program

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At-Sea Hake Observer Program

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Observers are sub-contracted through a contractor that works with the Region. That contractor is:

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Explaining why this violation of the Paperwork Reduction Act took place (April 16, 2009)

Instructions: 3 f., of the 83I Form, Check "Existing collection" if the collection has been in use without ever having received OMB approval. If you check this block, your request should be accompanied by a memo explaining why this violation of the Paperwork Reduction Act took place.

NMFS observer programs provide the only reliable or most effective method for obtaining information that is critical for meeting NMFS' responsibilities for the conservation and management of living marine resources. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) authorize NMFS to place observers on fishing vessels.

Most of the information collected by the observer programs is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through nonstandardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), such information is not subject to the PRA. There was confusion on NMFS' part as to whether all observer program operations were essentially exempt from the requirements of the PRA. The confusion was in part due to the understanding that, because observers could not complete their observations safely, effectively, and efficiently without asking pre-deployment logistical questions, gear and safety questions, and observer performance questions, such questions were also exempt. As recently as 2005, an exchange between NOAA/NMFS and OMB during the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) contributed to NMFS' long standing confusion on this issue. Ambiguity concerning what information is obtained through "nonstandardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations" also contributed to that confusion.

However, after a recent review of this issue, NOAA and DOC General Counsels agreed to the following (1) certain questions that NOAA/NMFS was asking are covered by the PRA and should have gone through the OMB review and approval process; (2) only "facts or opinions obtained through direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through nonstandardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations" are not subject to the PRA; (3) NOAA MSA observers who are employed by vessel operators are agents of NOAA for the purposes of the PRA; and (4) NOAA is pursuing a prudent course of action in seeking OMB approval as quickly as possible.

Attachment A

Referenced Excerpts from the Pacific Fishery Management Council Pacific Coast Groundfish Plan As Amended through Amendment 19 [July 2008]

6.2.3 Non-biological Issues—The Socioeconomic Framework

From time to time, non-biological issues may arise that require the Council to recommend management actions to address certain social or economic issues in the fishery. Resource allocation, seasons, or landing limits based on market quality and timing, safety measures, and prevention of gear conflicts make up only a few examples of possible management issues with a social or economic basis. In general, there may be any number of situations where the Council determines that management measures are necessary to achieve the stated social and/or economic objectives of the FMP.

Either on its own initiative or by request, the Council may evaluate current information and issues to determine if social or economic factors warrant imposition of management measures to achieve the Council's established management objectives. Actions that are permitted under this framework include all of the categories of actions authorized under the points of concern framework with the addition of direct resource allocation. If the Council concludes that a management action is necessary to address a social or economic issue, it will prepare a report containing the rationale in support of its conclusion. The report will include the proposed management measure, a description of other viable alternatives considered, and an analysis that addresses the following criteria: (a) how the action is expected to promote achievement of the goals and objectives of the FMP; (b) likely impacts on other management measures, other fisheries, and bycatch; (c) biological impacts; (d) economic impacts, particularly the cost to the fishing industry; (e) impacts on fishing communities; and (f) how the action is expected to accomplish at least one of the following, or any other measurable benefit to the fishery:

1. Enable a quota, HG, or allocation to be achieved.
2. Avoid exceeding a quota, HG, or allocation.
3. Extend domestic fishing and marketing opportunities as long as practicable during the fishing year, for those sectors for which the Council has established this policy.
4. Maintain stability in the fishery by continuing management measures for species that previously were managed under the points of concern mechanism.
5. Maintain or improve product volume and flow to the consumer.
6. Increase economic yield.
7. Improve product quality.
8. Reduce anticipated bycatch and bycatch mortality.
9. Reduce gear conflicts, or conflicts between competing user groups.
10. Develop fisheries for underutilized species with minimal impacts on existing domestic fisheries.
11. Increase sustainable landings.
12. Reduce fishing capacity.
13. Maintain data collection and means for verification.
14. Maintain or improve the recreational fishery.

The Council, following review of the report, supporting data, public comment, and other relevant information, may recommend management measures to the NMFS Regional Administrator accompanied by relevant background data, information, and public comment. The recommendation will explain the urgency in implementing the measure(s), if any, and reasons therefore.

The NMFS Regional Administrator will review the Council's recommendation, supporting rationale, public comments, and other relevant information, and, if it is approved, will undertake the appropriate method of implementation. Rejection of the recommendation will be explained in writing.

The procedures specified in this chapter do not affect the authority of the Secretary to take emergency regulatory action as provided for in Section 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act if an emergency exists involving any groundfish resource, or to take such other regulatory action as may be necessary to discharge the Secretary's responsibilities under Section 305(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

If conditions warrant, the Council may designate a management measure developed and recommended to address social and economic issues as a routine management measure, provided that the criteria and procedures in Section 6.2.1 are followed.

Quotas, including allocations, implemented through this framework will be set for one-year periods and may be modified inseason only to reflect technical corrections to an ABC. (In contrast, quotas may be imposed at any time of year for resource conservation reasons under the points of concern mechanism.)

Attachment B

Questions That Need PRA Clearance

The following lists identify the types of questions that NMFS observer programs at least occasionally ask fishing vessel owners/permit holders/captains/crews or processing plant managers/staff. The questions are grouped loosely into the following five categories: (1) pre-deployment questions; (2) safety questions; (3) observer performance evaluation questions; (4) gear, performance, operational, reimbursement, and data release questions; and (5) economic questions. Most of these questions are on the data collection forms included in this submission. Because some of the information is fishery or gear specific or is observable for some fishing vessels, trips, or sets, not all of the questions listed for a specific program will be asked by each observer. Where the information is described in terms of a question, the precise wording can vary by program. The captain's signature is also required as verification on some observer data collection forms. Those forms are contained in each observer program's manual. Manuals can be found on the National Observer Program webpage: http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/st4/nop/Observer_training_resources.html.

Other information routinely is collected by observers through either direct observations or non-standardized oral communication in connection with direct observations; A PRA clearance is not required when information is obtained in either of these two related manners.

The following acronyms are used to identify specific observer programs.

AMMOP	Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program
ASHOP	At-Sea Hake Observer Program (Northwest)
GOM RFSOP	Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish and Shrimp Observer Program
NEFOP	Northeast Fisheries Observer Program
NPGOP	North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program
PIROP	Pacific Islands Region Observer Program
SE POP	Southeast Pelagic Observer Program
SE SFOP	Southeast Shark Fishery Observer Program
SWROP	Southwest Region Observer Program
WCGOP	West Coast Groundfish Observer Program

I. Pre-Deployment Questions

A. AMMOP Pre-Deployment Question

1. What will be your fishing location for the following day?

B. ASHOP Pre-Deployment Questions

Pre-deployment questions do not need to be asked because each vessel owner/operator is required to obtain an observer from a certified observer provider.

C. GOM RFSOP, SE POP, and SE SFOP (FAX notification questions)

Note: Responses to these questions are mandatory and the PRA statements for these observer programs identify the regulations under which responses are mandatory.

1. Captain's Name
2. Vessel Name
3. Documentation/Vessel Number
4. Overall Length (ft)
5. Crew Size (include skipper)
6. Bunk Capacity
7. Life Raft Capacity
8. Contact Person/Telephone Number(s)
9. Communication Equipment (please list)
 - a. Cellular / SAT phone
 - b. VHF
 - c. Single Side Band
 - d. Call sign
10. Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal
 - a. Serial Number
 - b. Date issued (Month and Year)
11. Vessel Fishing Status
12. Port of Departure
 - a. Dock Facility
 - b. Street
 - c. City
 - d. State
 - e. Phone Number
 - f. Departure Date and Time
 - g. Anticipated Landing Date
 - h. Expected Target (Note: This question is only on the HMS fishery form.)
13. Expected Landing Port (if different from port of departure)
 - a. Dock Facility
 - b. Street
 - c. City
 - d. State
 - e. Phone Number
14. Gear Used (Circle all that apply) Note: This question is only on the reef fish form.
 - a. Handline
 - b. Longline
 - c. Bandit Reel
15. Primary Language (if other than English) Note: This question is only on the reef fish and shrimp forms.
16. Comments

D. NEFOP Pre-Deployment Questions

Note: Responses to these questions are mandatory and the PRA statement for this observer program identifies the regulations under which responses are mandatory.

1. Vessel Name
2. Gear Type
3. Permit Type
4. Date Planning to Sail
5. Expected Trip Duration
6. Contact Name
7. Contact Number
8. Alternate Contact Number
9. Port Sailing From
10. Fishing Area
11. USCG Documentation Number (Hull Number)
12. Permit Number
13. If calling in for an emergency layover, we would ask for the Emergency Reason (i.e. injured crew member)
14. Do you have a valid USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal?
15. Do you have an operable EPIRB (must have valid hydrostatic release and batteries)?
16. Do you have sufficient immersion suits and personal flotation devices?
17. Do you have valid emergency signaling flares?

E. NPGOP Pre-Deployment Questions

Pre-deployment questions do not need to be asked because each vessel owner/operator is required to obtain an observer from a certified observer provider.

F. PIROP Pre-Deployment Questions

Note: Responses to these questions are mandatory and the PRA statement for this observer program identifies the regulations under which responses are mandatory.

Similar information is collected for the Hawaii based and American Samoa longline fleets

1. May we see your Protected Species Workshop Card?
2. Is dehooking gear on the vessel?
3. Does the vessel have a drinking water tank aboard or does the vessel make water?
4. How many gallons is the water tank if you have one?
5. Does the vessel have a head and shower, is it indoors or out of doors?
6. How many bunks?
7. How many days will the vessel be at sea? (estimate)
8. How many sets will the vessels make? (estimate)
9. Will you transship?
10. What type of bait will the vessel use? (swordfish only)
11. May we check your bunks?
12. Turtle deterrents (circle hooks, bait type, dye) (PIROP)

G. SWROP Pre-Deployment Questions

1. Port of Departure
2. Port of Arrival
3. Date of Departure
4. Date of Arrival
5. Time of Departure
6. Number of Sets Made

H. WCGOP Pre-Deployment Questions

1. What is the wheel watch policy?
2. Did you receive your selection letter?
3. Will you be fishing during the specified period?
4. What port will you be fishing out of?
5. When do you plan to make your first trip?
6. Do you have a current USCG Dockside Examination Decal?
7. Do you know you're required to maintain a wheel watch?
8. Who is the person I should contact and what is their phone number?
9. How many days will the trip be?
10. Would you like to arrange a day and time to do the vessel safety equipment check?

II. Safety Questions

The observer asks questions to obtain each of the following types of safety information only when it cannot be obtained through direct observations. The safety information that observers are required to obtain are included in the vessel safety checklist for each observer program. The observer is required to complete the checklist and both the observer and captain are required to sign it before the fishing vessel leaves the dock. The safety checklists are included in this submission. For most observer programs, other safety information is collected with some of the pre-deployment questions listed above. Note: Responses to the following questions are mandatory. Specifically, "Upon request by an observer, a NMFS employee, or a designated observer provider, a vessel owner/operator must provide correct information concerning any item relating to any safety or accommodation requirement prescribed by law or regulation. A vessel owner or operator must also allow an observer, a NMFS employee, or a designated observer provider to visually examine any such item" [50 C.F.R. Part 600.746(c)(2)]. In addition, , owners and operators of fishing vessels that carry observers are required to comply with U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations. A vessel is considered inadequate or unsafe if it does not comply with the regulations regarding observer accommodations or if it has not passed a USCG safety examination or inspection. NMFS requires that all vessels pass a USCG safety examination in order to carry an observer. No observer is required to board a vessel that the observer thinks is unsafe. A vessel that would normally carry an observer, but is deemed unsafe, can be prohibited from fishing.

1. **Commercial fishing vessel safety decal** (present, issued date, expiration date, serial/registration number, distance rating) (All Programs)

2. **Life saving equipment quantity and location:** (All Programs)
 - a. Life rafts: present, number of, location/s, and type, life raft capacity, capacity for total number onboard, raft repack date, SOLAS rating, manufacture date, hydrostatic date, expiration date, inspection date, correct installation, ability to float freely;
 - b. Immersion suits (number, location);
 - c. PFDs (number, location);
 - d. Strobe (functioning);
 - e. Distress flares (present, number of, location, type/s, expiration dates, easily accessible);
 - f. EPRIB (present, location, battery expiration date, date of last testing, hydrostatic release expiration date, registered, registration date, codes match, signal tested; correct installation);
 - g. Life rings (number of, location/s, line attached, easily accessible),
 - h. Fire fighting equipment (present, location, extinguishers charged)
 - i. First aid kit (location);
 - j. Ditch bag (location);
 - k. Guards for exposed hazards
3. Vessel Name/Vessel # (All Programs)
4. Navigational equipment: Nautical charts for fishing area, compass (SWROP, GOM RFSOP)
5. Communication equipment: (GOM RFSOP, PIROP, SE SFOP, SWROP)
 - a. Number of working radios/type
 - i. Single Side Band (SSB);
 - ii. VHF;
 - b. Vessel call letters;
 - c. Satellite and cellular phones and phone numbers;
 - d. Emergency position fixing devices.
6. Vessel layout: (GOM RFSOP, SE SFOP, SWROP)
 - a. Engine on/off;
 - b. Steering;
 - c. Alarms;
 - d. Exits;
 - e. Hazards;
 - f. Pumps;
 - g. Emergency assignments
7. Station bill or billet assignments: (GOM RFSOP, PIROP, SE SFOP)
 - a. Posted?
 - b. Drills conducted (Man Overboard (MOB), fire, flooding, and abandon ship)?
8. Emergency Assignments (not on the Station Bill) (GOM RFSOP): each crew members specific duties in: launching survival craft and recovering life/rescue boats; donning immersion suits and wearable PFDs, making a voice radio distress call, using visual distress signals, activating the general alarm.
 - a. Were emergency directions provided? (GOM RFSOP)
9. Who on this vessel is CPR/First Aid certified? (AMMOP, ASHOP, NPGOP, PIROP, SE POP, NPGOP, SE SFOP)
10. Could you provide a safety orientation (GOM RFSOP, PIROP, SE SFOP, NEFOP)
11. Safety skill preformed and logged (GOM RFSOP)
12. Anchor and radar reflectors (SWROP, GOM RFSOP)
13. Vessel contact person telephone number(s) (PIROP, SE POP)

14. Are safety drills conducted on this vessel? (NEFOP)
15. Will a safety drill be conducted while I am onboard? (NEFOP)
16. Will an underway wheel watch be maintained during this trip? (NEFOP)
17. What should I do in an emergency? (ASHOP, WCGOP, SWROP)
18. Watertight doors/hatches work properly? (WCGOP)
19. Hatches/passageways unobstructed? (WCGOP)
20. Is there an adequate means of escape (WCGOP)
21. Can you sound the general/high water alarm? (ASHOP, WCGOP)
22. Number of crew & observer/s on board (NPGOP, GOM RFSOP, WCGOP, PIROP)

III. Observer Performance Evaluation Questions

A. AMMOP Observer Performance Evaluation Questions

1. Gear permit number
2. Today's Date
3. Fisher's Name
4. Comments

B. ASHOP Observer Performance Evaluation Questions

The ASHOP asks no observer performance evaluation questions.

C. GOM RFSOP, SE POP, and SE SFOP Observer Performance Evaluation Questions

1. Did the observer delay your departure time?
2. Was the observer's conduct while aboard your vessel professional?
3. Was the observer easy to work with?
4. Did you notice any problems between the observer and the crew?
5. Did the observer get his work done in a timely manner as to not impact your operations significantly?
6. Did you and the observer discuss safety procedures?
7. Was the observer doing anything that seemed unsafe?
8. Did the observer seem to experience sea-sickness?
9. Did the observer help to keep clean the galley area? The bunk area? Help with dishes?
10. Evaluation filled out by Owner or Captain?
11. Additional comments?

D. NEFOP Observer Performance Evaluation Questions

Captain Interview Questions

1. Was the Observer on time?
2. Did the Observer clearly explain his/her duties to you?
3. Did the Observer give you the Observer Duties Sheet?
4. Did the Observer explain their duties in regards to incidental takes of
5. Was there a marine mammal, marine turtle or seabird caught during this trip?
6. Did the Observer measure the gear (i.e., codend if this is a trawl trip)?
7. Did the Observer weigh the catch?

8. Did the observer take lengths (or shell heights) and biological samples from the catch?
9. Did the observer wear their PFD (life vest) while on deck?
10. Did the Observer hinder your operations in any way?
11. Did the Observer get along well with you and your crew?
12. Is the Observer welcome on your vessel again?
13. Did the Observer offer the captain a copy of the data?
14. Did the Observer offer the captain a comment card?
15. If no, please explain:
16. Additional Comments?

Fishermen's Comment Card Questions

1. Landing Date
2. Port (Town, State)
3. Vessel Name
4. Hull Number
5. Your Name
6. Your Status: Owner, Captain or Other
7. Were the logistics in setting up the trip acceptable?
8. Was the observer on time and prepared for the trip?
9. Was the observer courteous and polite and did they get along with the crew?
10. Did the observer explain their sampling requirements and protocols?
11. Did the observer record the positions (latitude/longitude or lorans) of all of the hauls?
12. Did the observer weigh and take length measurements of fish caught during trip?
13. Did the observer collect the catch information from the work deck of the vessel?
14. Did the observer identify fish species correctly?
15. Did the observer review the safety checklist with you?
16. Did the observer inform you of measuring the gear characteristics?
17. Did the observer ask you for the trip-level and tow-level target species?
18. Did you have any other concerns regarding the observer or observing procedures, or safety issues during the trip? If so, please explain in comments section below.
19. Which of the following would you like from the observer program?
 - Copy of this trips logs
 - Booklet with a detailed description of the observer program
 - Data Release Policy with a Data Release Form
 - Observer Program Vessel Safety Checklist
 - Federal Register with List of Fisheries (Categorization of Fisheries, MMPA)
 - Other (please specify):
20. Phone Number
21. Email address
22. Mailing Address
23. Additional comments?

E. NPGOP Observer Performance Evaluation Questions

Vessel/Operator Comment Form Questions

1. Vessel/Plant Operator
2. Vessel/Plant Name
3. Today's Date

4. Observer
5. Observer Provider
6. Dates observer onboard
7. Did the observer interact with you and your crew in a professional manner?
8. Did the observer discuss his/her work needs with you and your crew?
9. Did the observer follow vessel/plant rules or policies? If not, please elaborate.
10. Did the observer participate fully in safety drills? If not, why not?
11. Did the observer inform you of any suspected violations of regulations when these were witnessed?
12. Did the observer put himself/herself in any unsafe situations? If yes, please elaborate.
13. Did you have any issues with the observer's duties and responsibilities? If yes, please elaborate.
14. Did you discuss any issues regarding observer duties with the observer?
15. Were the issues resolved? How?
16. Did you discuss any issues regarding observer duties with anyone else? (please circle)
 - Observer Program staff
 - Observer provider
 - My fishing company
17. Please identify the person you spoke with and whether the issues were resolved.
18. Did the observer do anything specific that you appreciated? Please elaborate. Yes No
Comments
19. Do you have questions about the work performed by observers? (sampling methods, work schedules, etc)
20. Did you ask the observer?
21. Would you like to ask a member of our staff?
22. Would you like someone on our staff to contact you? (If yes, please provide contact information below)
23. In general, are you satisfied with the observers you have had on your vessel or at your plant?
Comments or suggestions?
24. If you would like us to contact you, please provide:
 - Phone
 - Email
 - Address

Non-Response Follow-Up Form

1. Vessel/Plant Operator
2. Vessel/Plant Name
3. Today's Date
4. Observer
5. Observer Provider
6. Dates observer onboard
7. Q1: Why didn't you respond to the Comment Form?
 - Didn't receive the form (go to question 2)
 - Too busy to fill it out (go to question 3)
 - Don't believe it will accomplish anything (go to question 3)
8. Q2: Will you respond to the Comment Form if you receive one?
 - Yes (send them a form and stop this survey)
 - No (go to question 3)

9. Q3: Will you respond to a short survey now?
 - Yes (go to question 4)
 - No (stop this survey)
10. Q4: In general, were you satisfied with your observer?
 - Satisfied
 - Not satisfied
 - Comments
11. Q5: In general, are you satisfied with the Observer Program?
 - Satisfied
 - Not satisfied
 - Comments
12. Q6: Any further comment?

F. PIROP Observer Performance Evaluation Questions

1. Where was observer positioned during the haul back?
2. How did the observer get the fishing positions?
3. Did the observer tell you how to fish or dictate fishing procedures?
4. Did the observer help with house keeping? If no, was the observer asked?
5. Did the observer maintain reasonable hygiene?
6. \Would you have this observer again?
7. Did the observer unnecessarily interfere with fishing operations? If so, how often? Please describe.
8. Was the observer courteous and polite?
9. Was the observer respectful towards crew?
10. Did the observer monitor all the sets for the first hour, and all the haul backs?
11. Please list any additional comments you have about this observer or the observer program.
12. Did the observer ask to take home any fish or did the observer ask to take home any fish? If yes, did the observer pay you for the fish?

G. SWROP Observer Performance Evaluation Questions

The SWROP asks no observer performance evaluation questions.

H. WCGOP Observer Performance Evaluation Questions

1. How was your experience with your observers over the past trip period?
2. Were they on time and courteous?
3. Did they do a safety check?
4. Do you have any complaints?

IV. Gear, Performance, Operational, Reimbursement, and Data Release Questions

The observer asks questions to obtain each of the following types of information only when it cannot be efficiently obtained through direct observations.

A. AMMOP Gear, Performance, Operational, and Data Release Questions

1. What is the target species of this haul?
2. Total fishing hours for non-observed days in current opener
3. Seal damage to catch
4. Expected [number] of hauls
5. Number hauls entirely unobserved
6. Number of nets fishing
7. Primary species retained and [species] code
8. Number of primary species retained
9. Net twine size number and manufacturer
10. Net minimum mesh size
11. Net maximum mesh size
12. Net color
13. Leadline used
14. Leadline weight
15. Net length
16. Net depth
17. Anchors used
18. Number of anchors
19. Anchor type
20. Day/time set at beginning of opener
21. Day/time set this haul
22. Haul begin depth
23. Haul end depth
24. Gear damage
25. Number of salmon retained by species and weight
26. Catch disposition
27. Data Release Form Questions
28. Disposition reason
29. Data Release Form Questions
 - a. Date of Request
 - b. Name of Permit Holder or Authorized Representative
 - c. Gear Permit Number
 - d. Which Fishery?
 - e. Fishing Date and Location
 - f. Address to Which Data Should Be Sent
 - g. Signed Name
 - h. Printed Name

B. ASHOP Operational and Data Release Questions

1. What is the size of the haul? Asked only when the observer is unable to make a reliable estimate of the haul size.
2. Data Release Form Questions
 - a. Date of Request
 - b. Name of individual requesting the data
 - c. Name of fishing vessel

- d. USCG or state registration #
- e. Own permit/license # or Hold permit/license #
- f. Do not own or hold a permit or license but am the captain of the above vessel
- g. Do not own or hold a permit or license but am the vessel owner of the above vessel
- h. I am requesting all observer data collected from _____ to _____.
- i. Signature
- j. Address to which data should be sent:
 - i. Name
 - ii. Street/ PO Box
 - iii. City, State, Zip

C. GOM RFSOP, SE POP, and SE SFOP Gear, Performance, Operational, and Reimbursement Questions

Note: Responses to these questions are mandatory and the PRA statements for these observer programs identify the regulations under which responses are mandatory.

1. What is the length and test of the gear (SE SFOP)
2. Vessel characteristics: Vessel name, documentation number, length, year built, hull construction, tonnage, horsepower (GOM RFSOP, SE SFOP, SE POP)
3. Owner name and address, captain's name (GOM RFSOP, SE SFOP, SE POP)
4. Bait type and state (GOM RFSOP, SE SFOP)
5. Bottom type (GOM RFSOP, SE SFOP)
6. Net, material, BRD type, codend length and circumference (GOM RFSOP)
7. TED material and angle (GOM RFSOP)
8. Mainline and lines off of mainline - material, test, and length (GOM RFSOP, SE POP)
9. Hook type, manufacturer and size (GOM RFSOP)
10. Total number of hooks set and lost (GOM RFSOP)
11. Manufacturer and model, shaft dimensions and firing mechanism of spear gun (GOM RFSOP)
12. Time in, latitude in, longitude in, depth of tow, set or dive (GOM RFSOP)
13. What is the vessel towing speed (GOM RFSOP)
14. Are there any operational problems (GOM RFSOP)
15. Invoice For Vessels Reimbursement (SE SFOP)
 - a. Vessel Name- name of the vessel that carried the observer
 - b. Dates of Trip- dates observer was aboard the vessel
 - c. Meal Expenses- calculate food cost: (rate) X (days at sea) = subtotal. Observers' personal food purchases may be deducted from subtotal, if so, a copy of the receipt will be provided.
 - d. Total cost incurred (food) for observer
 - e. Corporation Name/Owner Name- person or entity whose name will appear on the check.
 - f. TIN (This is required by CASC to issue a reimbursement check.)
 - g. Mailing Address- address where the check should be sent
 - h. Phone- contact number for additional information
 - i. Date- date of signature
 - j. Signature- signature of authorized person

16. Invoice For Vessels Reimbursement (SE POP)

- a. Vessel Name- name of the vessel that carried the observer
- b. Dates of Trip- dates observer was aboard the vessel
- c. Meal Expenses- \$25 X (days at sea) = subtotal
- d. Crew Sampling Assistance for blue fin tuna- number of BFT X \$200) = subtotal
- e. Liability Insurance- rate X (days at sea) = subtotal
 - i. Attach endorsement and billing statement
 - ii. Company name
 - iii. Agent name
 - iv. Phone number
- f. Equipment Expenses- rate X (days at sea) = subtotal
 - i. Company name
 - ii. Agent name
 - iii. Phone number
- g. Corporation Name/Owner Name- person or entity whose name will appear on the check.
- h. TIN (This is required by CASC to issue a reimbursement check.)
- i. Mailing Address- address where the check should be sent
- j. Phone- contact number for additional information
- k. Date- date of signature
- l. Signature- signature of authorized person

NEFOP Gear, Performance, Operational, Reimbursement, and Data Release Questions

Note: Responses to these questions are mandatory and the PRA statements for this observer program identify the regulations under which responses are mandatory.

1. What species are you targeting (per haul)?
2. Why is that species being discarded (per species/per haul)?
3. What is the weight of the kept catch (per haul)?
4. What is the depth at which the leadline fishes for the haul?
5. How long has the gear been soaking in the water?
6. How many nets/hooks were set?
7. How many nets/hooks were hauled?
8. How many active marine mammal deterrents were hauled?
9. How many active marine mammal deterrents were lost?
10. How many passive marine mammal deterrents were hauled?
11. How many passive marine mammal deterrents were lost?
12. What frequency of marine mammal deterrent device, in kHz, of each type is used?
13. What brand of marine mammal deterrent device of each type is used?
14. What method did you use to determine where to set your gear?
15. How many turns (greater than 90 degrees) were made on this haul?
16. How much wire was paid out for this haul?
17. What is your estimate of the total catch in the net (prior to pumping)?
18. What is your estimate of the total catch that was pumped onboard?
19. What is the distance from the top of the mouth to the bottom of the mouth while the net is fishing (vertical opening)?
20. What is the average width of the mouth of the net while the net is fishing?

21. What is the average distance from the door on one side of the net to the door on the other side of the net while the net is fishing?
22. What is the range of depths (shallowest to deepest) the headrope/hooks fished for this haul?
23. What is the distance between the 2 boats while the net is fishing (pair and midwater trawl only)?
24. How many bushels were kept in this haul (scallop dredge and trawl)?
25. How many bushels were discarded in this haul (scallop dredge and trawl)?
26. How many pounds of bait are used for this haul?
27. What kind of bait is used for this haul?
28. Was the set made on debris?
29. Did the Captain feel the set was successful?
30. Were any fish lost during the setting process?
31. What is the average vessel setting speed for the haul?
32. What is the total number of individual nets per string?
33. What is the average length of the net?
34. What is the average height of the net?
35. What is the average number of vertical meshes per net?
36. What is the average fractional ratio of the length of the floatline of one net to the length that the net would be if it was taken off the floatline and stretched out?
37. What is the industry funded twine size number of the net webbing used in the gear?
38. How many strands of twine in the net webbing are used in the gear?
39. What type of material is the gear (net/pot/codend/liner) made of?
40. What type of material is the floatline made of?
41. What is the weight of the leadline used the gear?
42. What is the distance between floats along the floatline of the gear?
43. Are tiedowns used?
44. What is the average length of the tiedown?
45. Are there any continuous spaces greater than or equal to 2.5 feet between the nets?
46. What is the total number of spaces between the nets?
47. What is the average width of each space between the nets?
48. What is the length of the droplines?
49. What is the total weight of the additional weights used on the gear?
50. What is the total weight of the anchor(s) used?
51. What is the mesh size of each net used in the gear?
52. What is the average length of line between the high flyer(s) and buoy(s) that are attached to the same buoyline?
53. What is the type of line used between the high flyer(s) and buoy(s)?
54. What is the average fractional diameter of the line between the high flyer(s) and buoy(s)?
55. What is the total length of groundline used?
56. What type of groundline is used?
57. What is the average fractional diameter of the groundline used?
58. What is the average length of the buoyline?
59. What type of buoyline is used?
60. What is the average percent of buoyline type (sinking/neutrally buoyant to floating)?
61. What is the average fractional diameter of the buoyline used?
62. What is the total number of surface system weak links used on the gear?
63. What type of weak links is used on the surface system?
64. What is the total number of net panel weak links used on the gear?

65. What is the weight of one door used with this gear?
66. What is the common name of the net?
67. What type of net are you using?
68. Who is the manufacturer of your net?
69. What year was your net built?
70. Where in the water column is the gear fishing?
71. What is the minimum and maximum size of the net body (pair and midwater trawl only)?
72. How many panels are used in the kite?
73. What is the length and width of the kite?
74. What is the length of the headrope (rope along the top of the net)?
75. What is the length of the footrope (length of rope along the bottom of the net)?
76. What is the ground cable length?
77. What is the length of the upper bridle on one side of the net?
78. What is the length of the wing bridle (pair and midwater trawl only)?
79. What is the length of the bottom bridle (pair and midwater trawl only)?
80. How many bridles are attached to each warp (pair and midwater trawl only)?
81. How many meshes are in the fishing circle?
82. What is the largest mesh measurement in the fishing circle?
83. What is the total number of the largest piece of gear present on the sweep?
84. How many floats are attached to the headrope?
85. What is the size, in inches, of the majority of floats attached to the headrope?
86. How many transducers are used on the gear?
87. What type and brand of transducers are used on this gear?
88. Where are the transducers located on the gear?
89. How many receivers are used for the transducers?
90. What type of excluder or separator device is used?
91. What is the mesh size of the escape outlet?
92. How many meshes are there and what is the size of the escape outlet?
93. What is the type of configuration used on the dredge?
94. What is the stock size of the links used on the bottom of the chain bag?
95. What is the total number of individual pots on the string?
96. What is the average length between pots?
97. Is a biodegradable panel used in the pots?
98. What type of material is used to attach the biodegradable panel to the pots?
99. What is the average length of the gangion(s) used on the gear?
100. What type of gangion is used on the gear?
101. What is the average fractional diameter of the gangion used?
102. What is the length of line between the anchor and the gangion?
103. What is the average distance along the mainline between gangions?
104. What is the test, or dry breaking strength of the gangion?
105. What is the type of anchor line used on the gear?
106. What is the average fractional diameter of the anchor line used?
107. What is the length of the sack/bunt section of the gear?
108. What is the depth of the net section?
109. What is the depth of the sack/bunt section?
110. What is the mesh size of the net section and sack/bunt section?
111. What is the industry funded twine size number of the sack/bunt used in the gear?
112. What type of material is the sack/bunt made of?

113. What is the length of the floatline used on the gear?
114. What is the diameter of the floatline used on the gear?
115. What is the length of the leadline used on the gear?
116. What is the diameter of the leadline used on the gear?
117. What is the length of the purse line used on the gear?
118. What is the diameter of the purse line used on the gear?
119. What is the length of the wash net used in this gear?
120. What is the total number of hooks set in this gear?
121. How many sections does each gear consist of?
122. What is the diameter of the mainline used on the gear?
123. What is the test, or dry breaking strength of the mainline?
124. What is the material of the mainline?
125. What is the brand name of the primary and secondary hooks used?
126. What are the model/patterns of the primary and secondary hooks used?
127. What is the size of the primary and secondary hooks used?
128. What is the test or dry breaking strength of the leaders used on the gear?
129. What is the length of the mainline used on the gear?
130. What is the overall height of the cage frame?
131. What is the overall width of the cage frame?
132. What is the overall length of the cage frame?
133. What is the size of the bars in the bottom of the cage?
134. What is the distance between the bars in the bottom of the cage?
135. What is the date and time that this haul began and ended (scallop trawl and scallop dredge off-watch hauls)?
136. How many bushels were kept in this haul for the off-watch hauls (scallop dredge and trawl)?
137. What time did the spotter plane take off and land this day?
138. Type of incidental take that occurred (seen by captain/crew only)?
139. How was the incidental take entangled (seen by captain/crew only)?
140. What was the condition of incidental take when it was released (seen by captain/crew only)?
141. What was the estimated length of the incidental take (seen by captain/crew only)?
142. What type of trip will this be (Limited Access Scallop, General Category Scallop, Georges Bank Fixed Gear Sector, Georges Bank Cod Hook Sector)?
143. How many days do you expect this trip last (to be away from port)?
144. What dealer are you selling the majority of your catch to?
145. What is the name of the port where you typically tie your vessel when it is not fishing?
146. What is the Vessel Trip Report Serial Number for this trip?
147. How many of each type of fishing gear do you have onboard?
148. How many of each type of fishing gear do you have soaking?
149. What species are you targeting for this trip using this type of gear?
150. Are the scallop meats soaked in a solution other than water (under Trawl Fisheries for Scallop Trawl only)?
151. Are the scallop meats mixed with larger or smaller scallop meats (under Trawl Fisheries - for Scallop Trawl only)?
152. What is the total number of bags of shucked scallops from this trip (under Trawl Fisheries - for Scallop Trawl only)?

153. What is the average weight of a bag of shucked scallops from this trip (under Trawl Fisheries - for Scallop Trawl only)?
154. For the data release, could you provide your mailing address?
155. For the data release, do you own the vessel?
156. For the vessel reimbursement, could you provide your mailing address?
157. For the vessel reimbursement, could you please sign this form?
158. Are you declared into the "Regular B-Day Program"?
159. Are you declared into the "US/Canada Management Area"?
160. What are you declaring for your VMS Fishing Area Code?
161. Did the trip flip from B-Days to A-Days?
162. Did the trip flex? If so, where?
163. Fishermen's Comment Log: Record vessel name and hull number, and notes or details on observed tows, such as species composition, estimated or extrapolated weights, gear or fishing conditions that may be out of the ordinary. If notes pertain to a specific tow, or times, please include that information below. (This is an optional form for the captain to use.)
164. Vessel Reimbursement Form For Multi-Day Trips Only Questions
 - a. Please make check payable to
 - b. Attn:
 - c. F/V
 - d. Street
 - e. City
 - f. State
 - g. Zip code
165. NMFS Fisheries Observer Program Trip Data Release Form Questions
 - a. Request Date
 - b. Observer Trip ID #
 - c. Vessel Name
 - d. USCG Doc #
 - e. Date Landed
 - f. PRINT Name
 - g. Signature
 - h. PRINT Mailing Address
 - i. Captain or owner?

E. NPGOP Gear, Performance, and Operational Questions

1. Ask crew to share marine mammals or shorttailed albatross information. (Such information is available rarely.)
2. Ask the skipper for the vessel's positions. (Rarely asked)
3. Ask the captain to let you know if there were any problems during the tow, or document this information somewhere for you.
4. Ask the captain to note in the vessel logbook when the true fishing duration is not the difference between the start and stop times listed.
5. Ask the person responsible for logbook entries to record problems with the gear for you somewhere on the logbook page or on a separate page.
6. At the beginning of your trip, or when you travel to a new fishing area, ask the crew what species they believe will be predominant in the catch.

7. Ask the person responsible for entering information in the vessel's logbook to record missing pots or problems with pot retrieval somewhere on the logbook page or on a separate page for you.
8. Ask the engineer for the surface water temperature if it is taken at the engine inlet thermometer. (Rarely asked)
9. Ask crew for information on each tagged fish and crab for every tag that you find or that is given to you.
10. You may need to double check your measurements, calculations, and methods, check scale calibrations, logbook entries and production figures. Ask the skipper, plant manager, or other personnel to clarify any questions you have.
11. Ask captain and crew about possible sources of bias in your species composition estimates and document these discussions in your logbook daily notes.
12. Ask the captain how many hauls are expected each day to determine your sampling schedule.
13. Prior to gathering fish lengths, ask the skipper if any of the target species was discarded at sea. (This question is asked when a vessel without an observer makes a delivery to a processing plant with an observer.)

F. PIROP Gear, Performance, and Operational, Questions

Note: Responses to these questions are mandatory and the PRA statement for this observer program identifies the regulations under which responses are mandatory.

1. What is the target depth?
2. What is the target species?
3. What is the length of the mainline?
4. What is the test of the main line?
5. What is the test of the branch line?
6. What is the test of the branch leader line?

G. SWROP Gear, Performance, and Operational Questions

1. What is the target species of this haul?
2. Total number of lightsticks and color of lightsticks
3. Numerical value for either pounds test or twine size for this section of net.
4. Net length - length of panels and total length
5. Net Depth - depth of the net in meshes
6. Mesh size
7. Extender length
8. Percent slack
9. Number of meshes hanging
10. Hanging length
11. Soak time total
12. Total amount of lost netting
13. Suspender length
14. Total catch (by species) and units
15. Date and time gear was set

H. WCGOP Gear, Performance, Operational, and Data Release Questions

1. What is the target species of this haul?
2. Who manufactures your gear?
3. Depth and vessel speed while setting gear?
4. Depth and vessel speed while towing gear?
5. What references did you use to determine where to set?
6. What is the fish ticket number(s) from the observed trip?
7. How much, by weight, does your codend hold?
8. How much, by weight, does your trawl alley hold when filled to the top of the bin boards?
9. Why did you discard this fish/species?
10. What day, time, and at what depth was the gear set? (very rarely asked)
11. What day, time, and at what depth was the gear retrieved? (very rarely asked)
12. What is your permit or license number?
13. How many hooks are in the set? (very rarely asked)
14. How many pots are in the set? (very rarely asked)
15. What size are your hooks?
16. When did the vessel stop participating in the observed portion of the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery?
17. Data Release Form Questions
 - a. Date of Request
 - b. Name of individual requesting the data
 - c. Name of fishing vessel
 - d. USCG or state registration #
 - e. Own permit/license # or Hold permit/license #
 - f. Do not own or hold a permit or license but am the captain of the above vessel
 - g. Do not own or hold a permit or license but am the vessel owner of the above vessel
 - h. I am requesting all observer data collected from _____ to _____.
 - i. Signature
 - j. Address to which data should be sent:
 - i. Name
 - ii. Street/ PO Box
 - iii. City, State, Zip

V. Economic Questions

The types of trip level economic information that observer programs collect are described below. Principally because some of the information is fishery or gear specific and because the categories of costs that are collected vary by program, no program will collect all of this information. Where the information is described in terms of a question, the precise wording can vary by program. The economic data collection forms by observer program and fishery are included in this submission. As with the other questions, excluding the observer performance questions, the economic questions are mandatory for the NEFOP.

A. Revenue Data:

1. How much was received for the fish landed on this trip? (This question is asked only if this information is not available from other sources, e.g., fish tickets or dealer reports.)

B. Trip Cost Data:

1. Fuel
 - a. Type of fuel used (e.g., diesel or gasoline)
 - b. Price per gallon
 - c. Gallons of fuel used this trip
 - d. Total cost of fuel this trip
2. Engine oil
 - a. Units (e.g., gallons or quarts)
 - b. Price per unit
 - c. Quantity of engine oil used this trip
 - d. Total cost of engine oil this trip
3. Bait
 - a. Type of bait used (type 1)
 - b. Units for type 1 bait (e.g., boxes or pounds)
 - c. Bait price per unit for type 1 bait
 - d. Quantity of type 1 bait used this trip
 - e. Total cost of type 1 bait this trip
 - f. Type of bait used (type 2)
 - g. Units for type 2 bait (e.g., boxes or pounds)
 - h. Bait price per unit for type 2 bait
 - i. Quantity of type 2 bait used this trip
 - j. Total cost of type 2 bait this trip
4. Ice
 - a. Units (e.g., tons or pounds)
 - b. Ice price per unit
 - c. Quantity of ice used this trip
 - d. Total cost of ice this trip
5. Lightsticks
 - a. Price per case of 500 lightsticks
 - b. Cases of lightsticks used this trip
 - c. Total cost of lightsticks this trip
 - d. Do you use disposable lightsticks?
 - e. Price per disposable lightstick
 - f. Number of disposable lightstick used this trip
 - g. Total disposable lightstick cost this trip
 - h. Do you use reusable lightsticks?
 - i. Number of reusable lightsticks used this trip
 - j. Number of reusable lightsticks replaced this trip
 - k. Price per lightstick replaced
 - l. Total replacement cost for reusable lightsticks this trip
6. Acoustic pingers
 - a. Number of acoustic pingers used this trip
 - b. Number of acoustic pingers replaced this trip
 - c. Price per pinger replaced
 - d. Total pinger replacement cost this trip
7. Labor/crew

- a. Total number of crew including the captain
 - b. Number of foreign crew
 - c. How much will the crew be paid for this trip?
 - d. Total shared costs (i.e. cost subtracted from gross revenue prior to calculating crew share payments for this trip)
 - e. Do you use crew share and if yes, what are owner's share, captain's share, crew share 1, crew share 2, and other?
 - f. If you do not use crew share, how are crew paid?
8. Swordfish certificates
- a. Number of swordfish certificates purchased this trip
 - b. Cost per certificate
 - c. Total certificate cost this trip
9. Other trip costs
- a. What is your estimate of the cost of replacing or repairing gear and/or equipment lost or damaged during this trip and what exactly was lost or damaged?
 - b. How much was paid for commonly used supplies for this trip and what do those supplies consist of?
 - c. How much was paid for food for this trip?
 - d. How much was paid for fresh water for this trip?
 - e. Provisions costs (i.e. groceries, bottled water, cigarettes, etc. for this trip)
 - f. Communications cost (satellite phone calls, email, etc.) for this trip
 - g. What are the costs of unloading (lumping), grading, selling, transporting, or otherwise handling the catch for this trip?
 - h. Boat freezer costs (i.e. cost to operate refrigeration system onboard the vessel for this trip)
 - i. Do you use brine or brine spray and if yes, what is the total cost?
 - j. Brokerage expense, if any or brokerage percentage
 - k. Other trip costs (i.e. docking/offloading fees if separate from broker fee, crew travel/lodging, etc. for this trip)
 - l. Miscellaneous trip costs (i.e. unexpected or "one-time" cost)
 - m. Miscellaneous costs (list details of the miscellaneous costs)
 - n. What is the cost of any processing of catch onboard the vessel for this trip?
 - o. What is the cost of any other trip activities not otherwise listed on the Vessel & Trip Log?
10. Aggregate trip costs
- a. Trip costs (food, fuel, ice, water, oil, and bait)
 - b. Total estimated trip costs

C. Other Economic Questions

- 1. Owner operated or hired captain
- 2. How many years of experience does the captain have in the fishery I am observing?
- 3. Fish ticket number
- 4. Do you have refrigeration onboard?
- 5. Did you use a harpoon?
- 6. How many swordfish did you harpoon?

Attachment C

PRA Statement for Each Program

The general PRA statements below will be available in the observer's manual, the pre-deployment letter and/or on the safety checklist, for reference regarding forms which the observer completes and which include SOME items that generally must be asked of the captain or crew; the response time on these general statements is for all information collection from captain or crew relating to one observed trip.

Each form completed by the captain or crew, or consisting of an interview by the observer (all questions are asked of captain or crew) has its own PRA statement, referencing the response time for that particular information collection (which is part of the total time referenced in the general PRA statement).

All forms submitted with this information collection request, whether completed mainly by observation, or completed by/through interview of captain or crew, display the OMB Control No. and expiration date.

Alaska

North Pacific Grounfish Observer Program (NPGOP)

Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 60 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division, 7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Seattle,

WA 98115. Providing the requested safety information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746; however, providing the other requested information is voluntary. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx

Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program (AMMOP)

Information collected through the Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program will be used to: (1) monitor bycatch in commercial fisheries; (2) understand the population status and trends of protected species, as well as the interactions between them and fisheries; and (3) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous two uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 15 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Protected Resources Division, 709 W 9th Street, PO Box 21668, Juneau, Alaska 99802. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 229, Subpart A for the other questions. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E and as required under the Section 118(d)(8) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1387(d)(8)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 229, Subpart A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx

Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

Northeast

Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP)

Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under

the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through “direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations”. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 74 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. However, depending on the fishery and trip duration, the public reporting burden can range from 4-250 minutes per trip. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Amy Van Atten, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. §600.725, §600.746, §648.11, 16 U.S.C. 1387 §118, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., 16 U.S.C. 742a §222 for the other questions. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx
Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

Northwest

At-sea Hake Observer Program (ASHOP)

Information collected through the observer program is used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, these biological and economic data collection programs contribute to legally mandated analyses required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law.

Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through “direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations”. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA)

regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 20 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: At-sea Hake Observer Program, 2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, WA 98112.

Providing information related to observer and vessel safety is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746. However, all other requested information is voluntary. Although you are under no legal obligation to answer non-safety related observer questions, we would appreciate your support as it ensures observer data can be used for its intended purpose.

The information collected will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx
Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP)

Information collected through the observer program is used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, these biological and economic data collection programs contribute to legally mandated analyses required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law.

Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 34 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden

estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: West Coast Groundfish Observer Program, 2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, WA 98112.

Providing information related to observer and vessel safety is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746. However, all other requested information is voluntary. Although you are under no legal obligation to answer non-safety related observer questions, we would appreciate your support as it ensures observer data can be used for its intended purpose.

The information collected will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx
Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

Pacific Islands

Pacific Islands Region Observer Program (PIROP)

Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask or that are asked at the Placement Meeting, and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 80 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 665.28, Conditions for At-sea observer coverage for all other questions, excluding the economic questions. Providing the requested economic information is voluntary. All information collected

by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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Southeast

Pelagic Observer Program (POP)

Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 40 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 622.8, 50 C.F.R. 229.7, and 50 C.F.R. 222.401 for the other questions. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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Shark Fishery Observer Program (SFOP)

Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 40 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 622.8, 50 C.F.R. 229.7, and 50 C.F.R. 222.401 for the other questions. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish and Shrimp Observer Program (GOM RFSOP)

Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered

Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through “direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations”. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 65 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Shrimp and Reef Fish Observer Programs, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, Texas 77551. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. 222.401, 50 C.F.R. 229.7, and 50 C.F.R. 622.8 for all other questions. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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Southwest

Southwest Region Observer Program (SWROP)

Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through “direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations”. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 60 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing

and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, 501 W. Ocean Blvd. #4200, Long Beach, CA 90802. Providing the requested safety information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746; however, providing the other requested information is voluntary. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E, or as required under Section 118(d)(8) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1387(d)(8)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 229, Subpart A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx

Expires xx/xx/2012

Attachment D

Summary of Sampling Methods Used by Observer Programs

Program	Coverage, sample size, or precision target	Mandatory	Sampling Frame	Vessel Selection Method
<p>Alaska Fisheries Science Center, North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program (NPGOP). Catch and bycatch in all North Pacific Groundfish fisheries is monitored inseason to support quota management, but the fleet is divided into four sectors by vessel size and processing mode (Catcher Processors (CPs) or Catcher Vessels (CVs) delivering to processing plants), each with different requirements for observer coverage. Changes in strategies for deployment of observers cannot be accomplished without changes in statutory authority to support collection of fees from industry.</p>				
<p><u>NPGOP, 0%..</u> Catcher Vessels <60 ft</p>	<p>0%</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>None Vessels < 60 ft not included in sampling frame for logistical reasons</p>	<p>No vessel selection No list of vessels or permits but information about landings from tickets</p>
<p><u>NPGOP, 30% Sector</u> Fleet: Catcher Vessels and C/P Vessels, LOA 60-124 ft: 46 bottom trawl vessels 58 pelagic trawl vessels 32 longline Vessels, LOA 70-176 ft: 75 pot vessels Vessels < 60 ft: No record</p>	<p>30% per quarter</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>NPGOP vessels listed in the sector</p>	<p>Ad-hoc; fleet is responsible for obtaining observer coverage.</p>
<p><u>NPGOP, 100% Sector</u> Fleet: Vessels LOA ≥ 125 ft; 79 bottom trawl catcher vessels; 55 longline vessels; variable trip length</p>	<p>100% 1 observer per trip</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>NPGOP vessels in the sector listed</p>	<p>Census</p>

Alaska Fisheries Science Center, North Pacific Groundfish Observer Program (NPGOP), continued.

Program	Coverage, sample size, or precision target	Mandatory	Sampling Frame	Vessel Selection Method
<u>NPGOP, 200% Sector</u> Fleet: Vessels LOA \geq 125 ft; 26-32 C/P bottom trawl and longline vessels; ~12 C/P vessels in the Atka mackerel fishery; 2 week + trip length	100%, 2 observers per trip	Y	NPGOP vessels in the sector listed	Census
Alaska Regional Office, Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program (AMMOP)				
<u>AMMOP</u>	5%	Y	Permit holders by stratified area	Randomly generated list

Program	Coverage, sample size, or precision target	Mandatory	Sampling Frame	Vessel Selection method
Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC)				
<u>Shore-based Hake</u> Fleet: 28 active vessels; mid-water trawl; EFP	100% , Electronic monitoring, 0% observer coverage	Y	Experimental fishing permit list	Census
<u>At-Sea Hake Observer Program</u> , 200% Sector limited-entry non-endorsed fleet	100%, 2 observers per trip	Y	All active catcher-processors and motherships	Census Fleet is responsible for obtaining coverage
<u>Oregon Near-shore Rockfish</u> Fleet: 125 permits; 87 deemed active; Longline, pots, hook & line, pole	All vessels sampled once per year. This fishery occurs throughout the year with no defined seasons. For each year, a list of permits is generated, the permits are assigned to port groups, and then selected for coverage. The cycles occur back-to-back, so observing is an ongoing process.	Y	87 active state permits of 125 state permits issued	Stratified random sampling without replacement; Port-groups form strata State permit list
<u>Limited-Entry Sablefish-Endorsed Fixed-Gear</u> ¹ Fleet: 164 active permits; vessels can have > 1 permit; longline and fish pots	All vessels sampled once per cycle (currently 3 year cycle) The selection cycle is defined by the amount of time it will take to observe the entire fleet, currently 3 fishing seasons. For each cycle, a list of permits is generated, the permits are assigned to port groups, and then selected for coverage. The cycles occur back-to-back, so observing is an ongoing process.	Y	164 active federal permits, vessels can have more than one permit	Stratified random sampling without replacement; Port-groups form strata Federal permit list

¹ For the limited-entry fixed gear fishery, permits are either endorsed for sablefish or not. Thus an endorsed vessel cannot be a subset of the non-endorsed vessels. Both endorsed and non-endorsed vessel are distinct subsets of the limited-entry fixed-gear fishery (John Carlson, personal communication)

Program	Coverage, sample size, or precision target	Mandatory	Sampling Frame	Vessel Selection method
Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC), continued				
<u>Limited-Entry Non-Sablefish-Endorsed Fixed-Gear</u> ¹ Fleet: 62 permits; 50 deemed active; multiple fixed gears	All vessels sampled once per year. This fishery occurs throughout the year with no defined seasons. For each year, a list of permits is generated, the permits are assigned to port groups, and then selected for coverage. The cycles occur back-to-back, so observing is an ongoing process.	Y	50 active federal permits of 62 issued.	Stratified random sampling without replacement; Port-groups form strata Federal permit list
<u>California Nearshore Rockfish</u> Fleet: 319 permits (fishermen); 101 deemed active; daytrips; multiple fixed gears	All vessels sampled once per year. This fishery occurs throughout the year with no defined seasons. For each year, a list of permits is generated, the permits are assigned to port groups, and then selected for coverage. The cycles occur back-to-back, so observing is an ongoing process.	Y	101 active permits of 319 permits issued.	Stratified random sampling without replacement; Port-groups form strata State permit list
<u>Limited-Entry Trawl</u> Fleet: 178 permits; 116 deemed active; Groundfish trawls; flatfish net	All vessels sampled once per cycle (currently 8-month cycles) This fishery occurs throughout the year with no defined seasons, so WCGOP has defined 'cycles' a sampling event that has a distinct beginning and end in lieu of a fishing season or year. Currently, the length of the selection cycles have been defined by the amount of time it will take to observe the entire fleet, typically 4-6 2-month periods. For each cycle, a list of permits is generated, the permits are assigned to port groups, and then selected for coverage. The cycles occur back-to-back, so observing is an ongoing process.	Y	116 vessels with active federal permits of 178 issued.	Stratified random sampling without replacement; Port-groups form strata Federal permit list

Program	Coverage, sample size, or precision target	Mandatory	Sampling Frame	Vessel Selection method
NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office				
<u>American Samoa Longline</u>	7-10% (tuna)	Y	Fleet listed; Based on federal permits	Systematic, Random start
<u>Hawaii Longline</u> Fleet: 123 tuna, 32 sword; 28 tuna and swordfish; pelagic line; 15-25 day trips (tuna); 25-35 day trips (swordfish)	100% (swordfish)	Y	Fleet listed; based on federal permits	Census
	~20% (tuna)	Y	Fleet listed; based on federal permits	Systematic, Random start
Southwest Regional Office (SWRO)				
<u>California/Oregon Drift Gillnet Fishery</u> Fleet: 40 active vessels; 7-10 day trips;	~20% of sets	Y	Fleet listed; based on federal permits	Ad-hoc; ~ 20% trips per vessel
<u>California Pelagic Longline Fishery</u> Fleet: 1 active vessel	100% of trips	Y	One active vessel	Census

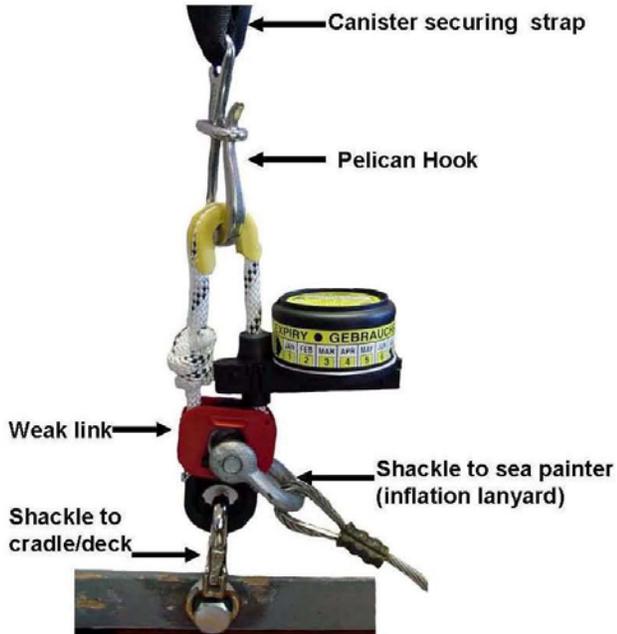
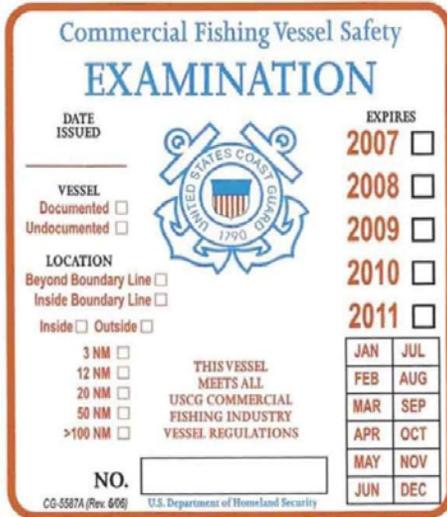
Program	Coverage, sample size, or precision target	Mandatory	Sampling Frame	Vessel Selection method
Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC)				
<u>Northeast Multispecies Groundfish</u> Fleet: >1589 vessels; multiple gears: gillnets (anchored, drift, float, sink), trawl (mid-water, bottom, purse seine), longline; 1-7 day trips typically; Federal and state permits	Target 30% CV for bycatch estimates of protected species; 5% A-Days 20% B-Day Programs, Special Access Areas SBRM Omnibus Amendment allocation	Y	Fleet lists determined by Vessel Trip Reports from the previous year and opportunistic selection	Quarterly stratified random sample; SBRM fleet sectors form strata
<u>Mid Atlantic Fisheries</u> Fleet: >2450 vessels; multiple gears: gillnets (anchored, drift, float, sink), trawl (mid-water, bottom, purse seine); 1-4 day trips typically; Federal and state permits	Coverage typically < 5% SBRM Omnibus Amendment allocation	Y	Fleet lists determined by Vessel Trip Reports from the previous year and opportunistic selection	Quarterly stratified random sample for a portion of the fleet; SBRM fleet sectors form strata
<u>Atlantic Sea Scallop Dredge Fishery</u> Fleet: >1433 vessels with GC and LA permits; multiple gears: primarily scallop dredge, some trawl; 1-12 day trips typically; VMS requirement; Federal permit	Target 10 % of trips Industry Funded Program	Y	Pre-trip notification required and opportunistic selection	Stratified random sample

Program	Coverage, sample size, or precision target	Mandatory	Sampling Frame	Vessel Selection method
Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC)				
<u>Shrimp Trawl</u> Fleet: ~2,700 federally permitted vessels; LOA ~ 75 ft; ~ 18 day trips GOM target 80% of total sea days; year-around; ~3 day trips on the east coast target 20% of total sea days.	<1% coverage, Target sample of 1,500 sea-days variable depending on funding;	Y	Federally-Permitted Vessels	Stratified random sample by effort, area, season, depth strata
<u>Reef Fish</u> Fleet: ~877 federally permitted vessels; gear types include bottom longline, electric reel (bandit) and handlines	~1% coverage, sea days variable depending on funding	Y	Federally-Permitted Vessels	Stratified random sample by region gear, and season based on previous year's effort from logbooks
<u>Southeast Shark Gillnet</u> Fleet:6-30 vessels; multiple gill net types	100% coverage (Nov 15 - Apr 1) for drift and strike boats; Otherwise target of 30% RSE for turtle or mammal interaction estimates	Y	Fleet	Census; stratified random sample
<u>Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Shark Bottom Longline Fishery</u> Fleet:250 vessels, approximately 100 active; LOA < 50 ft; 500-1,500 hooks per line;	100 % of all sandbar shark directed sets 4-6% for non-sandbar shark directed sets	Y	Fleet listed as determined by federal permits from the previous year	Stratified random sample by area and season based on previous years activity
<u>Pelagic Longline</u> Fleet: 80-100 active vessel w/ swordfish, tuna, and shark permits; 3-14 day trips 150-200 mi off-shore typical; some 20-40 day trips 200-1000 mi from port	8% of sets target, ~6% mean actual coverage	Y	Fleet listed as determined by federal permits from the previous year	Stratified random sample by statistical area and quarter based on previous years activity

Vessel Safety Checklist

VESSEL NAME: _____ VESSEL PERMIT: _____

Ensure the USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety decal is not expired based on the information noted on the face of the decal.



Is the decal valid? Y N

LIFE RAFTS:
 Number of: _____
 Total capacity: _____
 # of crew & observer/s on board _____

Sufficient capacity? Y N

Life raft(s) able to float free? (Note: some vessels have their rafts in a float free cradle - this is an approved cradling system, so long as the painter line is properly attached to a weak link.) Y N

Service Due sticker exp. date: ___/___ (expires on date displayed)

Hydrostatic release exp. date: ___/___ (expires on date displayed)

Your raft assignment: _____

EPIRB: (Visual inspection only. Please leave all testing/handling to crew)
 Location(s): _____

Battery exp. date: _____ (expires on date displayed)

Hydrostatic release expiration date: ___/___ (expires on date displayed)

Located in a float free location?: Y N

NOAA Registration Sticker:

Exp. date: _____ (expires on date displayed)

Registered to this vessel (name of vessel displayed): Y N

Alphanumeric code on sticker matches code on EPIRB: Y N

Signal tested (or asked to see station log in wheelhouse for most recent test. Signal should be tested monthly): Y N

IMMERSION SUIT/PFDs:

Available for everyone on board? Y N

Location(s): _____

Functioning strobe on personal suit? Y N

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

Extinguisher(s) found in every main area/corridor? Y N

Extinguishers in 'good and serviceable condition' (gauge in the green, low amounts of rust, canister in good condition, unobstructed, hoses attached, service tags available)? Y N

FLARES: (ask captain for assistance)

Location(s): _____

Expiration dates checked? Y N
 (expires on date displayed)

If checked, number of flares: _____

LIFE RINGS/SLINGS:

Number of: _____ / _____

Easily accessible?: Y N

Name of vessel displayed on each? Y N

Location(s): _____

ADDITIONAL SAFETY CHECKS:		FIRST AID MATERIALS:	
Watertight doors - do they close properly?	Y N	Location(s): _____	
Hatches/passageways - are they unobstructed?	Y N	Is there an individual trained in CPR/First Aid on board?	Y N
Discussed safe places to work on deck and in factory with captain/crew?	Y N	Who?: _____	
Discussed refrigerant leak procedures?	Y N	RADIOS:	
Type of refrigerant used _____			
Discussed reporting/identifying inoperative alarm/fire systems?	Y N	How many SSB and VHF radios?: _____ / _____	
Did you hear the general alarm?	Y N	Are emergency call instructions posted?	Y N
Where will you go during emergencies:	Y N	Were procedures for making an emergency call discussed?	Y N
SAFETY ORIENTATION:		EMERGENCY DRILLS AND DATE(S) CONDUCTED:	
If you did not complete drills upon embarking the vessel, did the captain use this safety checklist to complete the required vessel safety orientation?	Y N	Fire _____	
Did the vessel conduct a safety orientation?	Y N	Abandon Ship _____	
Who gave the orientation? _____		Man Overboard _____	
(Detail what was covered in the comment section below)		Vessel Flooding/stabilization _____	
		General alarm activation _____	
		Donning immersion suits _____	
		Radio/visual distress signals _____	
		Were the drills hands-on involving actual gear?	Y N
		Did you participate in the drills?	Y N

Observer Name: _____ Cruise #: _____

Observer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Captain Name: _____

Captain Signature (optional): _____ Date: _____

*Did the vessel request a copy of the Checklist? Y N

*If so, were you able to supply them with a copy? Y N

Additional Comments: (All "N" responses require a comment)

Tagged Fish and Crab Form

Cruise No.	Vessel / Plant Permit	Haul / Offload No.	Gear Type

Observer Name: _____

Vessel / Plant Name: _____

Reward Recipient's Name: _____
(Vessel or Plant Personnel)

Reward Shipment Address: _____

Species: _____	Tag Prefix and Serial No.: _____ <small>(e.g. PCA 00392)</small>
I authorize NMFS to provide this form and the tag to the tagging Country/Agency	
_____	_____
<small>(Captain/Owner Signature)</small>	<small>(Captain/Owner Printed Name)</small>

Date of Capture: _____	Time of Capture: _____	Depth (F): _____
Capture Location: Latitude (N): _____ Longitude: _____ E / W		
NMFS or ADF&G Area: _____ <small>(if Latitude / Longitude is unknown)</small>		
Source of Capture Information: _____ <small>(e.g. vessel log, navigation equipment, crew member, plant personnel, etc.)</small>		

Sex: _____	Gonad Maturity (immature, mature, spawning) _____
Length (cm): _____	Weight (kg): _____
General Appearance (poor body condition, good body condition): _____	
Condition of Tagging Wound (healthy healed tissue, open wound): _____	
Other Comments: _____ _____	

Tape tag and otolith vial here:

NPGOP Paperwork Reduction Act Statement

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 60 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division, 7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115. Providing the requested safety information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746; however, providing the other requested information is voluntary. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx
Expires xx/xx/2012



NPGOP VESSEL/PLANT OPERATOR COMMENT FORM

NORTH PACIFIC GROUND FISH OBSERVER PROGRAM

The information on this form will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service to evaluate how well the observers are performing their duties and to serve as a line of communication between the fishermen and the Observer Program.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minute per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

All identifying data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

INSTRUCTIONS

Anonymous responses have little value in this process, so please fill in the identifying information completely. If you don't remember the Observer's name, please fill in the rest of the identifying information and indicate whether the Observer was the Primary or Secondary observer (if known).

In addition to answering Yes or No to each question, please use the Comments section to provide additional information about your answer. If the answer is neither Yes nor No, please use the Comments section to record the appropriate answer (i.e. Sometimes or N/A [not applicable]).

Though this form's primary intent is to allow you to provide information regarding specific observers, the second page affords you an opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions about the Observer Program in general or to open up a line of communication between you and a member of our staff.

Please take the time to answer this Comment Form completely.

Thank you for your time!



Date Revised: May 6, 2009

NPGOP VESSEL/PLANT OPERATOR COMMENT FORM

Vessel/Plant Operator _____ Vessel/Plant Name _____ Today's Date _____

Observer _____ Observer Provider _____ Dates observer onboard _____

Questions about your observer	Yes	No	Comments
Did the observer interact with you and your crew in a professional manner?			
Did the observer discuss his/her work needs with you and your crew?			
Did the observer follow vessel/plant rules or policies? If not, please elaborate.			
Did the observer participate fully in safety drills? If not, why not?			
Did the observer inform you of any suspected violations of regulations when these were witnessed?			
Did the observer put himself/herself in any unsafe situations? If yes, please elaborate.			
Did you have any issues with the observer's duties and responsibilities? If yes, please elaborate.			
Did you discuss any issues regarding observer duties with the observer?			How were the issues resolved?
Did you discuss any issues regarding observer duties with anyone else? (please circle) Observer Program staff			Please identify the person you spoke with and whether the issues were resolved.
Observer provider My fishing company			



Did the observer do anything specific that you appreciated? Please elaborate.	Yes	No	Comments
Questions about the program			
Do you have questions about the work performed by observers? (sampling methods, work schedules, etc)			
Did you ask the observer?			
Would you like to ask a member of our staff?			
Would you like someone on our staff to contact you? (If yes, please provide contact information below)			
In general, are you satisfied with the observers you have had on your vessel or at your plant? Please use this space to provide any relevant comments or suggestions.			

If you would like us to contact you, please provide:

Phone _____ Email _____ Address _____



PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to improve observer training under section 403(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, et seq.), which will assist NMFS to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division, 7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115. Providing the requested information is voluntary. All identifying data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics. Other information collected on this form may be subject to public release under various statutes. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.



Date Revised: May 11, 2009

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx
 Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

NPGOP NON-RESPONSE FOLLOW-UP FORM

Vessel/Plant Operator _____ Vessel/Plant Name _____ Today's Date _____		
Observer _____ Observer Provider _____ Dates observer onboard _____		
1. Why didn't you respond to the Comment Form?	<input type="checkbox"/> Didn't receive the form (go to question 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Too busy to fill it out (go to question 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Don't believe it will accomplish anything (go to question 3)	
2. Will you respond to the Comment Form if you receive one?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (send them a form and stop this survey) <input type="checkbox"/> No (go to question 3)	
3. Will you respond to a short survey now?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (go to question 4) <input type="checkbox"/> No (stop this survey)	
4. In general, were you satisfied with your observer?	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfied	Comments: _____
5. In general, are you satisfied with the Observer Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Not satisfied	Comments: _____
6. Any further comment?		



PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to improve observer training under section 403(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, et seq.), which will assist NMFS to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis Division, 7600 Sandpoint Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115. Providing the requested information is voluntary. All identifying data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics. Other information collected on this form may be subject to public release under various statutes. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx
Expires xx/xx/2012

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program

DATA RELEASE FORM FOR COPIES OF TRIPS

1. The only individuals, excluding authorized NOAA Fisheries personnel, who may request and receive copies of completed AMMOP data forms include: the ADFG fishing permit holder, or a person acting as an authorized representative for the permit holder.
2. Any request for copies of observer forms must be submitted in writing on a form letter (see reverse side), which may be obtained from a NMFS observer or the address below. All signed requests must be sent to the following address:
Program Coordinator, Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Protected Resources
P.O. Box 21668, Room 461 Juneau, Alaska 99802
3. Upon release of the requested data, the authorized recipient then becomes responsible for it.
4. Data may not be released upon an oral request, or without first completing and signing the authorized release letter mentioned above.
5. Release of data for trips in which more than one fishing permit was observed may only occur if both permit holders or authorized representatives complete and sign data release requests.
6. All letters should be completed in pen, not pencil.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used to ensure that the data for a specific trip is not provided to a person who does not have authority to obtain that data under the confidentiality requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Marine Mammal Protections Act (MMPA). Meeting those confidentiality requirements is critical for collecting information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the MSA, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the MMPA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: Program Coordinator, Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources, P.O. Box 21668, Room 461 Juneau, Alaska 99802. Providing the requested information is required to obtain the observer data you have requested. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E, or as required under Section 118(d)(8) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1387(d)(8)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 229, Subpart A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program

DATA RELEASE FOR COPIES OF TRIPS FORM

(Date of Request)

Program Coordinator, Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program
National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Protected Resources
P.O. Box 21668, Room 461
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear AMMOP Coordinator:

I, _____, a set gillnet permit holder or authorized representative
(Print complete name)

(circle one) of set gillnet permit number # _____ request and
(set net permit number)
authorize the release to myself of data recorded at my set gillnet site by an observer from the
National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program.

The information I request is from the _____ fishery.
(Name of Fishery)

This information was collected on _____ in _____.
(Date) (Fishing Location)

I am making this request as the permit holder or the authorized representative of the owner(s), of the
said permit. I understand that I am responsible for these data upon release to me by NOAA
Fisheries. I further understand that the data I receive may be preliminary, and not yet completely
reviewed by the Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program.

(SIGNED NAME)

(PRINTED NAME)

Address to Which Data should be sent:
Street/ PO Box _____

City, State, Zip _____

OFFICE USE ONLY:
Date requested data received/ issued _____
Signature of data releaser _____
Printed name of data releaser _____

NMFS Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program
FISHER'S COMMENT FORM

Year	Month	Trip Identification Number	Fishery Name (& code)
Vessel Name		Vessel Number	Fishing Permit Number
Today's Date		Fisher's First Name	Fisher's Last Name
Comments			

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to improve observer training under section 403(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, et seq.), which will assist NMFS to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, National Observer Program, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is voluntary. All identifying data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics. Other information collected on this form may be subject to public release under various statutes. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 648-xxxx
Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Information collected through the Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program will be used to: (1) monitor bycatch in commercial fisheries; (2) understand the population status and trends of protected species, as well as the interactions between them and fisheries; and (3) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous two uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 15 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Protected Resources Division, 709 W 9th Street, PO Box 21668, Juneau, Alaska 99802. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 229, Subpart A for the other questions. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E and as required under the Section 118(d)(8) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1387(d)(8)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 229, Subpart A. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx

Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

BEACH SEINE GEAR / BEACH ANCHORED GILLNET GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG

OBS/ TRIP ID	
DATE LAND (mm/yy)	/ /

GEAR CODE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>		GEAR NUMBER(S)		NUMBER OF NETS				
BUNT CHARACTERISTICS: USED? No (0) ___ Yes(1) ___		GEAR CHARACTERISTICS: USED? NO YES		WING CHARACTERISTICS:				
LENGTH _____ ft		WASH NET 0 ___ 1 ___ Length _____ ft		Net # ___				
HEIGHT _____ ft		FLOATS 0 ___ 1 ___ Dist Between _____ ft		LENGTH (ft)				
MESH SIZE _____ in (circle one) A / E		ANCHOR (S) 0 ___ 1 ___		HEIGHT (ft)				
MESH COUNT, VERTICAL _____		Type		MESH SIZE (in)				
HANGING RATIO _____ / _____		Number _____		A / E (circle)				
TWINE SIZE _____ (circle one) A / E		Weight (total) _____ lb		MESH COUNT, VERTICAL				
# STRANDS _____		Actual 1 ___ Estimated 2 ___		HANGING RATIO				
COLOR CODE _____		LEADLINE WEIGHT _____ lbs / net		TWINE SIZE				
NET MATERIAL		MM DETERRENT DEVICES USED?		A / E (circle)				
Unknown 0 ___		ACTIVE 0 ___ 1 ___ Brand(s)		# STRANDS				
Nylon 1 ___		Number _____		COLOR CODE				
Other 9 ___		Frequency _____ kHz		NET MATERIAL				
		Unknown 0 ___		Unknown 0 ___				
		Dukane 1 ___		Nylon 1 ___				
		Airmar 2 ___		Other 9 ___				
		Fumunda 3 ___						
		Combinator 8 ___						
		Other 9 ___						
		PASSIVE 0 ___ 1 ___ Number _____						
FLOATLINE MATERIAL		COLOR CODES		COMMENTS				
Unknown 0 ___		Unknown 00 Multi-color 07						
Floating (foam core) 1 ___		Clear 01 Red 08						
Twisted polypropylene 2 ___		White 02 Orange 09						
Other 9 ___		Pink 03 Purple 10						
		Black 04 Combinator 98						
		Green 05 Other 99						
		Blue 06						

OBBSH OBHAU OBSPP 12/01/03

NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

BEACH SEINE / BEACH ANCHORED GILLNET HAUL LOG

OBS / TRIP ID	
DATE LAND (mm/yy)	/
PAGE #	of

GEAR CODE [][][]	GEAR NUMBER [][][]	HAUL # [][][]	HAUL OBS? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	MM WATCH? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	CATCH? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	INC TAKE? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	WEATHER CODE	WIND		WAVE HEIGHT ft	GEAR COND CODE
								SPEED kn	DIRECTION °		

HAUL INFO	DATE	TIME (24 hours)	LATITUDE / LONGITUDE (DD MM.M) - LORAN (XXXXX)				EST SOAK DUR	TARGET SPECIES CODE(S)
H BEGIN	/ /	: :	Station 1	Latitude / Bearing	Station 2	Longitude / Bearing	. hrs	
A			9960-		9960-			
U END	/ /	: :						
L								

COMMENTS	WATER TEMP	NUMBER OF NETS	IF MM DETERRENTS USED:	
		SET _____	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
		HAULED _____	HAULED _____	_____
		LOST _____	LOST _____	_____

SPECIES		CATCH DISP K / D	POUNDS	DISP CODE	WEIGHT		SPECIES		CATCH DISP K / D	POUNDS	DISP CODE	WEIGHT	
NAME	CODE				D/R	A/E	NAME	CODE				D/R	A/E

CAPTAIN INTERVIEW FORM

Observer ID _____ Interviewed by _____

Date of Trip/s _____ Date of Interview _____

Vessel Name _____ Operator Name _____

Trip Date Sail _____ Trip Date Land _____

Hull Number _____ Permit Number _____

Conducted In Person? _____

Y N

Was the Observer on time? _____

Did the Observer clearly explain his/her duties to you? _____

Did the Observer give you the Observer Duties Sheet? _____

Did the Observer explain their duties in regards to incidental takes of
protected species (marine mammals, seabirds, and turtles)? _____

Was there a marine mammal, marine turtle or seabird caught during this trip? _____

Did the Observer measure the gear (i.e., codend if this is a trawl trip)? _____

Did the Observer weigh the catch? _____

Did the observer take lengths (or shell heights) and biological samples from
the catch? _____

Did the observer wear their PFD (life vest) while on deck? _____

Did the Observer hinder your operations in any way? _____

Did the Observer get along well with you and your crew? _____

Is the Observer welcome on your vessel again? _____

Did the Observer offer the captain a copy of the data? _____

Did the Observer offer the captain a comment card? _____

If no, please explain: _____

Additional Comments: _____

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166 Water Street, Woods Hole MA 02543-1026. Providing the requested information is voluntary. All identifying data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics. Other information collected on this form may be subject to public release under various statutes. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OBCMP 01/01/07

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
 CATCH COMPOSITION LOG (Front)**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/
PAGE #	of
HAUL #	

BASKET # _____ TIME _____:_____

SPECIES	CODE	POUNDS (R/A)
SUBTOTAL		

BASKET # _____ TIME _____:_____

SPECIES	CODE	POUNDS (R/A)
SUBTOTAL		

BASKET # _____ TIME _____:_____

SPECIES	CODE	POUNDS (R/A)
SUBTOTAL		

BASKET # _____ TIME _____:_____

SPECIES	CODE	POUNDS (R/A)
SUBTOTAL		

COMMENTS

BASKET # _____ TIME _____:_____

SPECIES	CODE	POUNDS (R/A)
SUBTOTAL		

BASKET # _____ TIME _____:_____

SPECIES	CODE	POUNDS (R/A)
SUBTOTAL		

OBCDG 06/01/05

NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

CLAM/QUAHOG DREDGE GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	
GEAR CODE	GEAR NUMBER
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

DREDGE CAGE			CAGE BOTTOM
HEIGHT	WIDTH	LENGTH	BAR DIAMETER _____in
_____in	_____in	_____in	BAR SPACING _____in
			SORTER USED: NO 0___ YES 1 ___

TOWLINE TYPE:

UNKNOWN 0 ___

SINGLE 1 ___

BRIDLE 2 ___

OTHER 9 ___

CHAIN BAG		INSIDE RING SIZE mm	NUMBER OF NOZZLES
NO 0___ YES 1 ___		(5 random measurements)	
USED?		TOP OF BAG _____	
AVG # OF LINKS BTW 2 RINGS _____		BOTTOM OF BAG _____	
LINK STOCK SIZE _____/_____		OUTSIDE RING SIZE _____mm	

TOWLINE POSITION:

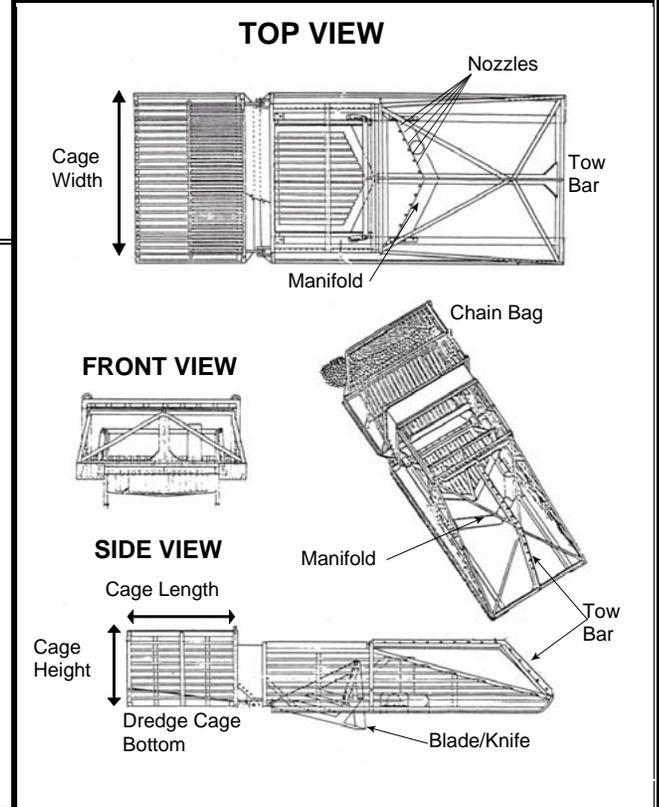
UNKNOWN 0 ___

FORWARD 1 ___

OVER TOP OF THE KNIFE 2 ___

OTHER 9 ___

COMMENTS



OBCDH OBHAU OBSPP 01/01/07

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
CLAM/QUAHOG DREDGE HAUL LOG**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/ /
PAGE #	of

GEAR CODE □□□	GEAR NUMBER □□	HAUL # □□□	HAUL OBS ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	CATCH ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	INC TAKE ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	WEATHER CODE	WIND SPEED DIRECTION kn °		WAVE HEIGHT ft	DEPTH, HAUL BEGIN fm	GEAR COND CODE
HAUL/FISHING INFO	DATE mm/dd/yy	TIME 24 hours	LATITUDE / LONGITUDE (DD MM.M) - LORAN (XXXXX)				WATER TEMP fahrenheit		TOW SPEED kn	WIRE OUT fm	
BEGIN HAUL	/ /	:	STATION 1 9960-	LATITUDE / Bearing		STATION 2 9960-	LONGITUDE / Bearing		TARGET SPECIES CODE		
BEGIN FISHING	/ /	:							CLAM / QUAHOG CLAPPERS OBS?		
END HAUL	/ /	:	9960-			9960-			BOTTOM CHARACTERIZATION		
GEAR ONBOARD	/ /	:	NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___ Unknown 00 ___ Clear 01 ___ Quahog Shell Covered 02 ___ Surf Clam Shell Covered 03 ___ Scallop Shell Covered 04 ___ Starfish Covered 05 ___ Sand Dollar Covered 06 ___ Combination 08 ___ Other 09 ___								
COMMENTS			# OF BUSHELS KEPT DISCARDED _____ . _____ . _____								

SPECIES		CATCH DISP	POUNDS	DISP	WEIGHT		SPECIES		CATCH DISP	POUNDS	DISP	WEIGHT	
NAME	CODE	K / D		CODE	D/R	A/E	NAME	CODE	K / D		CODE	D/R	A/E

OBCDO 06/01/05

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
CLAM/QUAHOG DREDGE OFF-WATCH HAUL LOG**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/
PAGE #	<input type="checkbox"/> of <input type="checkbox"/>

HAUL #	HAUL INFO	DATE mm/dd/yy	TIME 24 hours	LATITUDE / LONGITUDE (DD MM.M) - LORAN (XXXXX)				CLAM/QUAHOG # OF BUSHEL KEPT
				Station 1	Latitude / Bearing	Station 2	Longitude / Bearing	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		

OBCRU 01/01/01

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
 CRUSTACEAN SAMPLE LOG (Front)**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LAND mm/yy	/
PAGE #	<input type="text"/> OF <input type="text"/>
HAUL #	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

SPECIES							ANIMALS CAUGHT							SHELL DISEASE
NAME							CODE	NUMBER				A / E	PERCENTAGE	
LOBSTER ONLY							LOBSTER ONLY							
CARAPACE (mm)	C	S	E	V-	M	#	CARAPACE (mm)	C	S	E	V-	M	#	
LENGTH - LOBSTER	D	E	G	N	O	L	LENGTH - LOBSTER	D	X	G	O	L	L	
WIDTH - CRAB	I	X		T	T	A	WIDTH - CRAB	I			T	T	A	
	(K/D)					W		(K/D)					W	
1							26							
2							27							
3							28							
4							29							
5							30							
6							31							SEX CODES:
7							32							0 = Unknown
8							33							1 = Male
9							34							2 = Female
10							35							EGG CODES:
11							36							0 = Unknown
12							37							1 = No
13							38							2 = Yes
14							39							
15							40							V-NOTCH CODES:
16							41							0 = Unknown
17							42							1 = No
18							43							2 = Yes, Old
19							44							3 = Yes, New
20							45							MOLT CODES:
21							46							0 = Unknown
22							47							1 = Soft
23							48							2 = Paper
24							49							3 = Hard
25							50							4 = Splitter

COMMENTS

OBCRU 01/01/01

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
CRUSTACEAN SAMPLE LOG (Back)**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LAND mm/yy	/
PAGE #	<input type="text"/> OF <input type="text"/>
HAUL #	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

LOBSTER ONLY							LOBSTER ONLY						
CARAPACE (mm)	C	S	E	V-	M	#	CARAPACE (mm)	C	S	E	V-	M	#
LENGTH - LOBSTER	D	E	G	N	O	L	LENGTH - LOBSTER	D	E	G	N	O	L
WIDTH - CRAB	I	X	G	O	L	L	WIDTH - CRAB	I	X	G	O	L	L
	S			T	T	A		S			T	T	A
	P					W		P					W
	(K/D)							(K/D)					
51							76						
52							77						
53							78						
54							79						
55							80						
56							81						
57							82						
58							83						
59							84						
60							85						
61							86						
62							87						
63							88						
64							89						
65							90						
66							91						
67							92						
68							93						
69							94						
70							95						
71							96						
72							97						
73							98						
74							99						
75							100						

SEX CODES:

- 0 = Unknown
- 1 = Male
- 2 = Female

EGG CODES:

- 0 = Unknown
- 1 = No
- 2 = Yes

V-NOTCH CODES:

- 0 = Unknown
- 1 = No
- 2 = Yes, Old
- 3 = Yes, New

MOLT CODES:

- 0 = Unknown
- 1 = Soft
- 2 = Paper
- 3 = Hard
- 4 = Splitter

COMMENTS

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Northeast Fisheries Observer Program
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
Northeast Fisheries Observer Program
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543

To mail, fold on this line and apply sticker from inside to close.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx

Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

IMPORTANT!!

FISHERMEN'S COMMENT CARD

NORTHEAST FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

The information on this form will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service to evaluate how well the observers are performing their duties and to serve as a line of communication between the fishermen and the Observer Program. This form and other information about the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program are available on the web at: <http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fsb/>.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to improve observer training under section 403(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, et seq.), which will assist NMFS to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: Amy Van Atten, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole MA 02543-1026. Providing the requested information is voluntary. All identifying data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics. Other information collected on this form may be subject to public release under various statutes. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number

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Obcmc

OMB Control No.: 0648-xxxx
Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

Trip ID

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4) Did the observer explain their sampling requirements and protocols?

Yes No

5) Did the observer record the positions (latitude/longitude or lorans) of all of the hauls?

Yes No

6) Did the observer weigh and take length measurements of fish caught during trip?

Yes No

7) Did the observer collect the catch information from the work deck of the vessel?

Yes No

8) Did the observer identify fish species correctly?

Yes No

9) Did the observer review the safety checklist with you?

Yes No

10) Did the observer inform you of measuring the gear characteristics?

Yes No

11) Did the observer ask you for the trip-level and tow-level target species?

Yes No

12) Did you have any other concerns regarding the observer or observing procedures, or safety issues during the trip? If so, please explain in comments section below.

Yes No **SECTION II OF II**

Would you like more information from the observer program?

 Copy of this trips logs (**If so, signature:** _____)

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Record notes or details on observed tows, such as species composition, estimated or extrapolated weights, gear or fishing conditions that may be out of the ordinary. If notes pertain to a specific tow, or times, please include that information below.

OBXXX 01/01/07

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
FISHERMEN'S COMMENT LOG**

OBS/ TRIP ID	
DATE LAND (mm/yy)	/
PAGE #	OF
TODAY'S DATE (mm/dd/yy)	/ /

VESSEL NAME	HULL NUMBER	COMMENTS CONTINUED ON BACK? NO 0 ____ YES 1 ____
COMMENTS		

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 15 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Amy Van Atten, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026. Providing the requested information is voluntary. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx; Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

OBGGS 01/01/07

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
GILLNET GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG (Front)**

OBS/ TRIP ID	
DATE LAND (mm/yy)	/
PAGE #	OF

GEAR CODE □ □ □		GEAR NUMBER(S)			NUMBER OF NETS																			
AVERAGE NET:		USED?		MEASUREMENTS		MESH SIZE(S)		NET COLOR																
LENGTH _____ ft		NO YES		Dist Between _____ ft		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th># OF NETS</th> <th>MESH SIZE (inches)</th> <th>(circle one)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>A / E</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		# OF NETS	MESH SIZE (inches)	(circle one)	_____	_____	A / E	Unknown 00 _____										
# OF NETS	MESH SIZE (inches)	(circle one)																						
_____	_____	A / E																						
_____	_____	A / E																						
_____	_____	A / E																						
_____	_____	A / E																						
HEIGHT _____ ft		FLOATS 0 ___ 1 ___		Length _____ ft		Clear 01 _____		White 02 _____																
MESH COUNT		TIE DOWNS 0 ___ 1 ___ (all nets)		Number _____		Green 05 _____		Blue 06 _____																
VERTICAL _____		2 ___ (not all nets)		Width _____ ft		Multi-color 07 _____		Red 08 _____																
HANGING RATIO _____ / _____		SPACE(S) BETWEEN NETS 0 ___ 1 ___		Length _____ ft		Orange 09 _____		Purple 10 _____																
(circle one)		DROPLINES 0 ___ 1 ___		Weight _____ lbs		OR		Combination 98 _____																
TWINE SIZE _____ A / E		ADDITIONAL WGTS 0 ___ 1 ___		Type _____		MESH SIZE RANGE		Other 99 _____																
# STRANDS _____		ANCHOR(S) 0 ___ 1 ___		Unknown 0 _____		_____ - _____																		
		Number _____		Danforth-style 1 _____																				
NET MATERIAL		Weight (total) _____ lbs		(circle one)																				
Unknown 0 _____				A / E																				
Nylon 1 _____				Dead Weight 2 _____																				
Other 9 _____				Combination 8 _____																				
				Other 9 _____																				
FLOATLINE MATERIAL		SECURING METHOD(S)		None 1 _____		SURFACE SYSTEM		BUOYLINE																
Unknown 0 _____		Ocean Bottom 2 _____		Vessel/Ocean Bottom 3 _____		# of High Flyer(s) _____		# of Buoyline(s) _____																
Floating (foam core) 1 _____		Vessel Only 4 _____				# of Buoy(s) _____		Length (avg) _____ ft																
Twisted Polypropylene 2 _____						Distance of Line Btwn High Flyer & Buoy(s) (avg) _____ ft		Type Code _____																
Other 9 _____						Type Code _____		Percent of Type (sinking / floating) _____ % / _____ %																
						Diameter _____ / _____ in		Diameter _____ / _____ in																
LEADLINE WEIGHT _____ lbs/ net		MM DETERRENT DEVICES		GROUNDLINE		WEAK LINKS																		
		ACTIVE USED? 0 ___ 1 ___		NO YES		NO YES																		
		Brand(s)		USED? 0 ___ 1 ___		USED ON SURFACE? 0 ___ 1 ___																		
		Unknown 0 _____		Length (total) _____ ft		Number (total) _____																		
		Dukane 1 _____		Type Code _____		Type Code _____																		
		Airmar 2 _____		Diameter _____ / _____ in		USED ON STRING? 0 ___ 1 ___																		
		Fumunda 3 _____				Number (total) _____																		
		Combination 8 _____				Type Code _____																		
		Other 9 _____				Type Code _____																		
		PASSIVE USED? 0 ___ 1 ___																						
		Number _____																						
COMMENTS																								

OBGGH OBHAU OBSPP 01/01/01

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
 GILLNET HAUL LOG**

OBS/ TRIP ID	
DATE LAND (mm/yy)	/ /
PAGE #	<input type="checkbox"/> OF <input type="checkbox"/>

GEAR CODE	GEAR NUMBER	HAUL #	HAUL OBS? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	MM WATCH? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	CATCH? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	INC TAKE? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	WEATHER CODE	WIND		WAVE HEIGHT	DEPTH, HAUL BEGIN		
								SPEED kn	DIRECTION o		BOTTOM fm	LEADLINE fm	
SET INFO			DATE AND TIME mm/dd/yy 24 hours	OR EST SOAK DUR	LATITUDE / LONGITUDE (DD MM.M) - LORAN (XXXXX)				TARGET SPECIES	CODE(S)	GEAR COND CODE		
S	BEGIN	/ /	:		Station 1 9960 -	Latitude / Bearing	Station 2 9960 -	Longitude/ Bearing					
E	END	/ /	:	hrs	9960 -		9960 -		NUMBER OF NETS	IF MM DETERRENTS USED: ACTIVE PASSIVE			
HAUL INFO			DATE	TIME	WATER TEMP					SET			
H	BEGIN	/ /	:		9960 -		9960 -		HAULED	HAULED			
A	END	/ /	:		9960 -		9960 -		LOST	LOST			
U													
L													
COMMENTS									SET METHOD				
									Unknown	00 ___	Visual	05 ___	
									Temperature	01 ___	Mixed	98 ___	
									Bottom Contours	02 ___	Other	99 ___	
									Compass/ Loran	03 ___			
									Tide/ Current	04 ___			
SPECIES		CATCH DISP K / D	POUNDS	DISP CODE	WEIGHT		SPECIES		CATCH DISP K / D	POUNDS	DISP CODE	WEIGHT	
NAME	CODE				D/R	A/E	NAME	CODE				D/R	A/E

OBIAL 01/01/07

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
INDIVIDUAL ANIMAL LOG**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LAND mm/yy	/
PAGE#	OF
HAUL #	

GEAR #	SEQ #	SPECIES		INITIAL STATUS CODE	END STATUS CODE	FISH DISP CODE <small>In Appen</small>	PROC CODE	WEIGHT			TAG		LENGTHS cm			SEX 0 = U 1 = M 2 = F	BIO-SAMP 0 = N 1 = Y	PHOTO TAKEN 0 = N 1 = Y
		NAME	CODE					POUNDS	MKT D/R	TYPE A/E	NUMBER(S)	CODE(S)	#1	#2	Est(#1)			
	1																	
	2																	
	3																	
	4																	
	5																	
	6																	
	7																	
	8																	
	9																	
	0																	

COMMENTS: List identifying characteristics such as fin placement relative to other body parts, coloration, head and tail shape, presence/absence of lateral and/or anal scutes (sturgeon), presence of spines, etc. Also include tag recapture information such as tagging program, phone number, etc.

STANDARD LENGTHS:		
	# 1	# 2
Swordfish (c)	LJFL	CK
Billfish (c)	LJFL	PFL
Tuna	FL	PFL
Shark	FL	TL
Sturgeon	FL	None
Ray	TL	DW
Terrapin	TL	NL
Other	FL	None

STATUS CODES:

- 0 = Unknown
- 1 = Alive
- 2 = Dead
- 3 = Dead, Damaged
- 4 = Dead, Head Only

PROCESSING CODES:

- 00 = Unknown
- 01 = No Processing
- 02 = Chunked
- 03 = Filleted
- 04 = Dressed (Gutted Only)
- 05 = Dressed (Finned Only)
- 06 = Dressed (Headed and Gutted)
- 07 = Dressed (Headed, Gutted, Finned)
- 08 = Dressed (Headed, Gutted, Tailed)
- 09 = Dressed (Headed, Gutted, Finned, Tailed)
- 99 = Other

WEIGHT MARKET CODES:

- D = Dressed (1)
- R = Round (2)

WEIGHT TYPE CODES:

- A = Actual (1)
- E = Estimated (2)

TAG CODES:

- 0 = Unknown
- 1 = Tag Applied by Observer
- 2 = No Tag(s)
- 3 = Tag Already Present, Left On
- 4 = Tag Already Present, Removed
- 5 = Carcass Tagged (Fish Only)

OBLNH OBLND 01/01/07

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
LENGTH FREQUENCY LOG**

OBS/TRIP ID		
DATE LAND	mm/yy	/
PAGE #		<input type="checkbox"/> OF <input type="checkbox"/>
HAUL #	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	DREDGE / NET POSITION port (1) ___ starboard (2) ___ both (0) ___ aft (4) ___

SPECIES NAME														
SPECIES CODE														
FISH DISPOSITION CODE														
SEX CODE														
SAMPLE WEIGHT (R/A)													SAMPLE WEIGHT (D/A)	
SAMPLE TYPE CODE													VOLUMETRIC MEASURE OF MEATS	
# SAMPLES														_____ nearest 50 ml
MEASUREMENTS:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10 - 14	110-114
Finfish, Squid - cm	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15 - 19	115-119
Shellfish - mm	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20 - 24	120-124
SEX CODES:	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	25 - 29	125-129
0 = Unknown	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	30 - 34	130-134
1 = Male	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	35 - 39	135-139
2 = Female	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	40 - 44	140-144
SAMPLE TYPE CODES:	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	45 - 49	145-149
0 = None	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	50 - 54	150-154
1 = Scales	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	55 - 59	155-159
2 = Otoliths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60 - 64	160-164
3 = Shells	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	65 - 69	165-169
4 = Whole	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	70 - 74	170-174
5 = Vertebra	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	75 - 79	175-179
6 = Dorsal Spines	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	80 - 84	180-184
7 = Scales & Otoliths	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	85 - 89	185-189
8 = Head	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	90 - 94	190-194
9 = Other	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	95 - 99	195-199
	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	100-104	200-204
	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	105-109	205-209

COMMENTS

OBPTG 01/01/07

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
LOBSTER, CRAB, & FISH POT GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG (Back)**

OBS/ TRIP ID	
DATE LAND (mm/yy)	/
PAGE #	OF

GEAR CODE

GEAR NUMBER(S)

NUMBER OF POTS

DIAGRAM FOR REFERENCE ONLY

⊗ = Weak Link

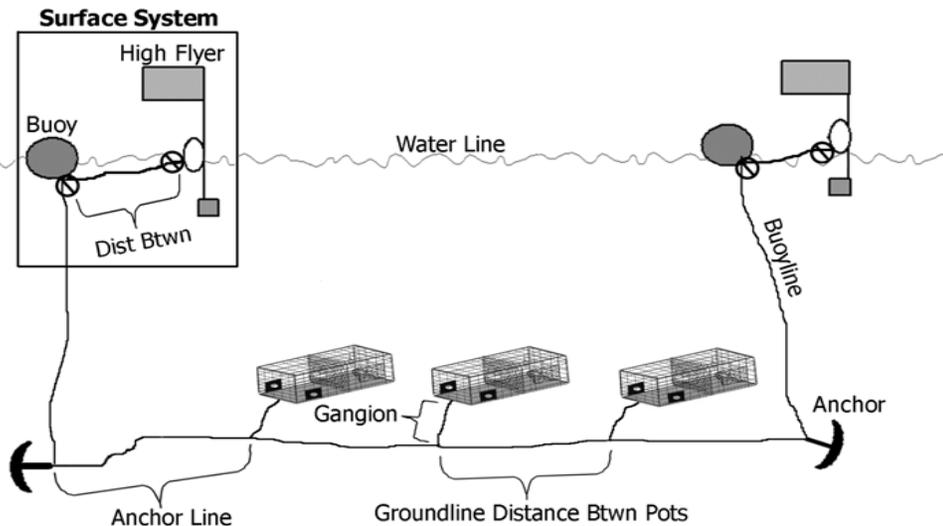


Photo Credit: NOAA Fisheries Service Northeast Regional Office (Original image modified to include additional information).

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

SHAPE CODES:

- 00 = Unknown
- 01 = Rectangular
- 02 = Round / Oval
- 03 = 1/2 Round
- 04 = Cone
- 05 = Trapezoid
- 99 = Other

SIDE CONSTRUCTION CODES:

- 0 = Unknown
- 1 = Wood Lathe
- 2 = Plastic Coated Wire
- 3 = Twine Mesh
- 4 = Plastic Mesh
- 8 = Combination
- 9 = Other

LINE / GANGION TYPE CODES:

- 0 = Unknown
- 1 = Sinking / Neutrally Buoyant
- 2 = Floating
- 8 = Combination
- 9 = Other

WEAK LINK TYPE CODES:

- 0 = Unknown
- 1 = Rope of Appropriate Breaking Strength
- 2 = Off the Shelf
- 3 = Overhand Knot
- 4 = Hog Rings
- 8 = Combination
- 9 = Other

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

OBPTH OBHAU OBSPP 12/01/03

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
 LOBSTER, CRAB & FISH POT HAUL LOG**

OBS/ TRIP ID	
DATE LAND (mm/yy)	/ /
PAGE #	of

GEAR CODE	GEAR NUMBER(S)	HAUL #	HAUL OBS?		CATCH?		INC TAKE?		WEATHER CODE	WIND		WAVE HEIGHT	DEPTH, HAUL BEGIN	GEAR COND CODE
			NO 0	YES 1	NO 0	YES 1	NO 0	YES 1		SPEED	DIRECTION			

SET INFO	DATE AND TIME	O EST	LATITUDE / LONGITUDE (DD MM.M) - LORAN (XXXXX)				TARGET SPECIES				CODE(S)		
	mm/dd/yy	24 hours	R	SOAK DUR	Station 1	Latitude / Bearing	Station 2	Longitude / Bearing					
S BEGIN	/ /	:			9960-		9960-		NUMBER OF POTS				
T END	/ /	:		hrs	9960-		9960-		BAIT				
									LBS	KIND	TYPE	COND	
HAUL INFO	DATE	TIME	WATER TEMP						SET				
H BEGIN	/ /	:			9960-		9960-		HAULED	#1			
U END	/ /	:		°	9960-		9960-		LOST	#2			

COMMENTS	SET METHOD
	Unknown 00 ___ Visual 05 ___
	Temperature 01 ___ Mixed 98 ___
	Bottom Contours 02 ___ Other 99 ___
	Compass/ Loran 03 ___
	Tide/ Current 04 ___

SPECIES		CATCH DISP	POUNDS	DISP	WEIGHT		SPECIES		CATCH DISP	POUNDS	DISP	WEIGHT	
NAME	CODE	K / D		CODE	D/R	A/E	NAME	CODE	K / D		CODE	D/R	A/E

NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
LONGLINE GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG

OBS/ TRIP ID *
DATE LAND (mm/yy) * /

GEAR CODE * □ □ □		GEAR NUMBER(S) *		NUMBER OF HOOKS*		NUMBER OF SECTIONS		SECTION LENGTH _____ nm			
MAINLINE *				FLOATS				ANCHOR USED?		HOOKS *	
# OF STRANDS _____		COLOR		AVERAGE HOOKS		NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___		BRAND		MODEL/PATTERN SIZE	
DIAMETER _____mm		Unknown 00 ___		TYPE USED? NUMBER BETWEEN		WEIGHT _____lbs		_____		_____	
TEST _____lbs		Clear 01 ___		Unknown NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___		Actual 1 ___		_____		_____	
MATERIAL		White 02 ___		Polyball NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___		Estimated 2 ___		_____		_____	
Unknown 0 ___		Pink 03 ___		Bullet/Daub NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___		DROPLINE		COUNT		_____	
Mono-filament Nylon 1 ___		Black 04 ___		Other NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___		LENGTH _____ft		RADIO BEACONS		_____	
Cotton 2 ___		Green 05 ___				DISTANCE BETWEEN _____ft		RADAR REFLECTORS		_____	
Steel Wire 3 ___		Blue 06 ___									
Multi-strand Nylon 4 ___		Multi-color 07 ___									
Other 9 ___		Red 08 ___									
		Other 99 ___									
GANGIONS				LEADERS *				LIGHT STICKS USED?			
DISTANCE BETWEEN _____ft		USED? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___		LENGTH _____ft		NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___					
DIAMETER _____mm		COLOR		TEST _____lbs		COLOR					
TEST _____lbs		Unknown 00 ___		MATERIAL		Unknown 00 ___					
LENGTH COUNT		Clear 01 ___		Unknown 0 ___		White 02 ___					
_____ft _____		White 02 ___		Mono-filament Nylon 1 ___		Pink 03 ___					
_____ft _____		Pink 03 ___		Steel Wire 3 ___		Green 05 ___					
		Black 04 ___		Other 9 ___		Blue 06 ___					
		Green 05 ___				Red 08 ___					
		Blue 06 ___				Orange 09 ___					
		Red 08 ___				Purple 10 ___					
		Combination 98 ___				Combination 98 ___					
		Other 99 ___				Other 99 ___					
MATERIAL				SWIVELS							
Unknown 0 ___				USED? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___							
Mono-filament Nylon 1 ___				NUMBER SWIVELS/GANGION		NUMBER					
Cotton 2 ___											
Multi-strand Nylon 4 ___											
Other 9 ___											

* = fill in for other line gears

OBBMM 01/01/07

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
 MARINE MAMMAL BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE LOG (Front)**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LAND mm/yy	/ /
PAGE #	<input type="text"/> OF <input type="text"/>

PSID #	SPECIES NAME	SEX 0 = U 1 = M 2 = F	MARINE MAMMAL MEASUREMENTS					CETACEANS ONLY			NUMBER OF SAMPLES TAKEN									
			Body Temp °F	Blubber Thickness cm	Total Length cm	Axillary Girth cm	Hind/Pec Flip Len cm	Pec Flip Width cm	Dorsal Fin Height cm	Fluke Width cm	Whole	Finclip/ Flipper/Skin	Jaw	Stom	Blub	Musc	Repro Tract	Head/ Skull	Other list in comments	

General Comments:

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN:
 PSID # _____
 A. snout - eye (cm) _____
 B. snout - ear (cm) _____
 C. snout - blow (cm) _____
 D. snout - flip (cm) _____

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN:
 PSID # _____
 A. snout - eye (cm) _____
 B. snout - ear (cm) _____
 C. snout - blow (cm) _____
 D. snout - flip (cm) _____

Sketch and describe ID characteristics, overall body condition, note any scavenger damage and/or decomposition, new and/or healed wounds, any gear on the animal, etc:

PSID # _____



Circle one : Left / Right



Circle one : Dorsal / Ventral

OBBMM 01/01/07

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
MARINE MAMMAL BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE LOG (Back)**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LAND mm/yy	/
PAGE #	OF

Sketch and describe ID characteristics, overall body condition, note any scavenger damage and/or decomposition, new and/or healed wounds, any gear on the animal, etc:

PSID # _____



Circle one : Left / Right



Circle one : Dorsal / Ventral

Sketch and describe ID characteristics, overall body condition, note any scavenger damage and/or decomposition, new and/or healed wounds, any gear on the animal, etc:

PSID # _____



Circle one : Left / Right



Circle one : Dorsal / Ventral

Sketch and describe ID characteristics, overall body condition, note any scavenger damage and/or decomposition, new and/or healed wounds, any gear on the animal, etc:

PSID # _____



Circle one : Left / Right



Circle one : Dorsal / Ventral

Sketch and describe ID characteristics, overall body condition, note any scavenger damage and/or decomposition, new and/or healed wounds, any gear on the animal, etc:

PSID # _____



Circle one : Left / Right



Circle one : Dorsal / Ventral

OBINC 01/01/08

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
 MARINE MAMMAL, SEA TURTLE, AND SEA BIRD INCIDENTAL TAKE LOG (Front)**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LAND mm/yy	/ /
PAGE #	<input type="checkbox"/> OF <input type="checkbox"/>

PSID #	HAUL NUM	GEAR NUM	NET NUM/ DREDGE/NET POSITION (p/s/u/a)	TIME 24 hours	ADD COND CODE	SPECIES		TAG		ENTANG SITU CODE	ANIMAL COND CODE	ANIMAL ONBRD? 0 = No 1 = Yes	PHOTO TAKEN? 0 = No 1 = Yes	SAMPLE LOG? 0 = No 1 = Yes	ESTIM LEN cm (if no actual) (no birds)
						NAME	CODE	NUMBER(S) <small>(Record the most recent tag first.)</small>	CODE(S)						
__1				:											
__2				:											
__3				:											
__4				:											
__5				:											
__6				:											
__7				:											
__8				:											
__9				:											
__0				:											

COMMENTS: List identifying characteristics, describe in detail the entanglement situation, include a description of the overall body condition of the animal, behavior on deck and upon release and any other related information. Use back of log if more room is needed.

OBPRG 01/01/08

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
PAIR and SINGLE MID-WATER TRAWL GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG (Front)**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/ /
PAGE #	OF

GEAR CODE	GEAR NUMBER (S)	NET NAME	NET TYPE	NET BUILDER	YEAR NET MADE	GEAR MOUNTED ELECTRONICS USED ?	EXCLUDER/SEPARATOR DEVICE USED? NO 0 YES 1
Unknown Pelagic Semi-Pelagic Bottom Other	0 1 2 3 9	TYPE Unknown 00 Nylon 01 Poly 02 Kevlar® 03 Spectra® 04 Tenex® 05 Nomex® 06 Combination 98 Other 99	NET BODY CODEND	LENGTH MEASUREMENTS Headrope _____ft Footrope/Sweep _____ft Top Bridle _____fm Wing Bridle _____fm Bottom Bridle _____fm	CODEND HUNG Unknown 0 Diamond 1 Square 2 Square, Wrapped 3 Combination 8 TWINE TYPE Single 1 Double 2 Single on Top/ 3 Double on Bottom Other 9	NO 0 YES 1 NUMBER OF TRANSDUCERS TYPE Unknown 0 Wired 1 Wireless 2 Both 3 BRAND Unknown 0 Furuno® 1 Simrad® 2 Northstar Tech 3 Notus 4 Marport 5 Scanmar 6 Combination 8 Other 9	Type Code _____ T.E.D. EXTENSION Mesh Size _____ . _____ in
NET CONSTRUCTION Unknown Rope/Large Mesh Parallel Rope Trawl Other	0 1 2 9	BUOYANCY/RELEASE DEVICES USED? NO YES FLOATS 0 1 BLOWOUT 0 1 KITE 0 1 KITE PANEL Number _____ Length _____in Width _____in FLOATS Number _____ Diameter _____	BRIDLES NUMBER BRIDLES/WARP _____ BRIDLES/SIDE _____ WARPS/BOAT * _____ FISHING CIRCLE # MESHES _____ MESH SIZE _____cm	MESH SIZE _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm	LINER USED? NO 0 YES 1 MESH SIZE _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm STRENGTHENER USED? NO 0 YES 1 CHAFING GEAR USED? NO 0 YES 1	LOCATION Unknown 0 Headrope 1 Wings 2 Footrope 3 Headrope & Footrope 4 Door 5 Codend 6 Other Combo 8 Other 9 # OF RECEIVERS	ESCAPE OUTLET USED? NO 0 YES 1 TYPE Unknown 0 Panel 1 Opening 2 Single Flap 3 Double Flap 4 Other 9 MESH SIZE _____in LENGTH # MESHES _____ OR _____in WIDTH # MESHES _____ OR _____in SHAPE Type Code _____ LOCATION Type Code _____
DESIGN Unknown 2 Seam 4 Seam, Equal Panels 4 Seam, Unequal Panels Other	0 1 2 3 9	COMMENTS					
DOORS USED? NO 0 YES 1							
WEIGHT _____kg							
WEIGHTS USED? NO 0 YES 1							
WEIGHT _____lbs							
Actual 1							
Estimated 2		* Fill in only on pair trawl trips.					

OBPRG 01/01/08

NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

PAIR and SINGLE MID-WATER TRAWL GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG (Back)

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/
PAGE #	<input type="text"/> OF <input type="text"/>

GEAR CODE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	GEAR NUMBER (S)	EXCLUDER/SEPARATOR DEVICE TYPE CODES: 00 = Unknown 01 = Nordmore Grate 03 = Separator Panel 04 = Guiding Device 05 = Raised Footrope 20 = T.E.D., Unknown 21 = Standard T.E.D. 22 = Weedless T.E.D. 23 = Flounder T.E.D. 24 = Bent Rod T.E.D. 25 = Conch T.E.D. 26 = Flat Bottom T.E.D. 27 = Whelk T.E.D. 28 = Flexible T.E.D. 29 = Parker Soft T.E.D. 30 = Experimental T.E.D. 98 = Combination (Comment) 99 = Other (Comment)	ESCAPE OUTLET SHAPE CODES: 00 = Unknown 01 = Rectangular 05 = Trapezoid 06 = Square 07 = Diamond 08 = Triangular 09 = Semi-Circle 11 = Horizontal Cut 99 = Other (Comment)	ESCAPE OUTLET LOCATION CODES: 0 = Unknown 1 = Net Top 2 = Net Bottom 3 = Net Side 4 = Codend Top 5 = Codend Bottom 8 = Combination (Comment) 9 = Other (Comment)
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS				

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

OBPRH OBHAU OBSPP 01/01/08

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
PAIR and SINGLE MID-WATER TRAWL HAUL LOG**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/ /
PAGE #	of

GEAR CODE □□□	GEAR NUMBER □□	HAUL # □□□	HAUL OBS ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	CATCH ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	INC TAKE ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	WEATHER CODE	WIND SPEED _____ kn DIRECTION _____ °		WAVE HEIGHT _____ ft	DEPTH, HAUL BEGIN _____ fm	GEAR COND CODE										
HAUL INFO	DATE mm/dd/yy	TIME 24 hours	LATITUDE / LONGITUDE (DD MM.M) - LORAN (XXXXX)				STATION 1	LATITUDE / Bearing	STATION 2	LONGITUDE / Bearing	NUMBER OF TURNS	TOW SPEED _____ kn	WIRE OUT _____ fm								
BEGIN HAUL	/ /	:	9960-			9960-															
BEGIN FISHING	/ /	:							WATER TEMP fahrenheit _____ °	TARGET SPECIES CODE											
END HAUL	/ /	:	9960-			9960-															
GEAR ONBOARD	/ /	:	COMMENTS						VERTICAL OPENING ** _____ ft	DEPTH RANGE, HEADROPE _____ fm											
FISH PUMPING															HORIZONTAL OPENING ** _____ ft	DISTANCE RANGE BETWEEN BOATS * _____ ft					
BEGIN	/ /	:													DOOR SPREAD ** _____ ft						
END	/ /	:																			
CAPTAIN'S CATCH ESTIMATE (prior to pumping)																					
_____ lbs																					

* Only fill in for pair trawl trips. ** Only fill in if gear mounted electronics are used.

WHEN THE PUMPING PROCESS WAS COMPLETED WERE YOU ABLE TO SEE THE CODEND? _____ No (0) _____ Yes (1)

WERE THERE FISH PRESENT IN THE CODEND AT THE COMPLETION OF THE PUMPING PROCESS? _____ No (0) _____ Yes (1) _____ Could Not See (2)

WHEN THE CODEND WAS EMPTIED WHERE WAS IT LOCATED? _____ Off Stern (1) _____ Side of Vessel (2) _____ On Deck (3)

SPECIES		CATCH DISP	POUNDS	DISP	WEIGHT		SPECIES		CATCH DISP	POUNDS	DISP	WEIGHT	
NAME	CODE	K / D		CODE	D/R	A/E	NAME	CODE	K / D		CODE	D/R	A/E



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Region
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

February 6, 2008

Small Entity Compliance Guide

Dear Northeast Permit Holder:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Northeast Fisheries Observer Program (NEFOP) routinely places observers on commercial fishing vessels to collect fisheries data. The Regional Administrator requests that you carry a NMFS NEFOP certified observer in accordance with the instructions in this letter.

If contacted by a NMFS employee or designated contractor in person, by telephone, or in writing, your vessel must carry an observer on its next fishing trip. Once contacted by a NMFS employee or designated contractor, you will be directed as to how you are to make notification of your next fishing trip(s). In some situations you may be selected dockside shortly in advance of a fishing trip. After you have been so contacted, it is illegal to engage in any fishing activity on your vessel without an observer on board unless you have received a waiver from a NMFS employee or designated contractor.

If your vessel is participating in any one of the fisheries listed below, you are currently required to contact the observer program (NMFS, NEFOP) in advance of each fishing trip: Limited Access Sea Scallop Open Area; Limited Access Sea Scallop Access Area; General Category Sea Scallop Access Area (no call in for General Category Open Area); U.S./Canada Management Area; Closed Area II Yellowtail Flounder SAP; Eastern U.S./Canada Haddock SAP; Regular B-DAS Program; CA I Hook Gear Haddock SAP; or Limited Access directed herring vessels (All Areas and Area 2/3 permits) fishing under the midwater trawl or purse seine exempted fishery provisions. Specific information outlining the notification requirements for these fisheries can be found at (<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/fsb>) or by calling (508-495-2266).

Observers are required to complete a pre-trip vessel safety check of the vessel's emergency equipment and are required to review emergency instructions with the operator prior to the vessel departing port. Vessels will be deemed inadequate or unsafe for carrying a NMFS certified observer if the vessel does not have a current US Coast Guard Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination decal or if the vessel is lacking one or more of the following safety devices: personal flotation devices/immersion suits; ring buoys or other allowable flotation; distress signals; fire extinguishing equipment, when required; Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), when required; and survival craft, when required. These safety devices must be presently inspected, in good working order, and in sufficient quantity. An observer can not depart on an inadequate or unsafe vessel, and it is illegal for a vessel, otherwise required to carry an observer, to engage in fishing activity without the observer on board.



Regulations related to fisheries observers can be found at 50 CFR §600.725, §600.746 and §648.11; the Marine Mammal Protection Act under 16 USC 1387 §118; and the Endangered Species Act under 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 742a §222.

Continued industry support in this critical data collection process is vital to provide both industry and regulators with the best, and most accurate, data upon which to base fisheries management decisions. Your cooperation and assistance in this program is greatly appreciated. Any questions about the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program and these requirements should be directed to David Potter, Chief of the Fisheries Sampling Branch, at 508-495-2262.

This notice is authorized by the Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Region.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 74 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. However, depending on the fishery and trip duration, the public reporting burden can range from 4-250 minutes per trip. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Amy Van Atten, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. §600.725, §600.746, §648.11; 16 U.S.C. 1387 §118; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*, 16 U.S.C. 742a §222 for the other questions. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

PRE-DEPLOYMENT SAFETY CHECKLIST

	Y	N
Do you have a valid USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal?	_____	_____
Do you have an operable EPIRB (must have valid hydrostatic release batteries)?	_____	_____
Do you have sufficient immersion suits and personal flotation devices?	_____	_____
Do you have a survival craft with sufficient capacity for all crew (including observer), with a current decal, inspection, and hydrostatic release?	_____	_____
Do you have valid emergency signaling flares?	_____	_____

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure that observers can be deployed effectively, efficiently, and safely on fishing vessels in order to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 2 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: Amy Van Atten, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OBSIG 01/01/08

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
PROTECTED SPECIES SIGHTING LOG (Front)**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LAND mm/yy	/ /
PAGE #	<input type="checkbox"/> OF <input type="checkbox"/>
TODAY'S DATE mm/dd/yy	/ /

EVENT TIME 24 hours	EVENT TYPE CODE	POSN CODE	HAUL NUM	LATITUDE / LONGITUDE (DD MM.M) - LORAN (XXXXX)				WEATHER CODE	WAVE HGT ft	COMMENTS? 0=N,1=Y	SPECIES		#ANIM	SIGHT CUE CODE	ANIM COND CODE	ANIM BEHAVR CODE
				Station 1	Latitude / Bearing	Station 2	Longitude / Bearing				NAME	CODE				
:				9960-		9960-										
:				9960-		9960-										
:				9960-		9960-										
:				9960-		9960-										
:				9960-		9960-										
:				9960-		9960-										
:				9960-		9960-										
:				9960-		9960-										
:				9960-		9960-										
:				9960-		9960-										
:				9960-		9960-										
:				9960-		9960-										

<p>EVENT TYPE CODES:</p> <p>WATCH ONLY 03 = Begin set watch 04 = End set watch 05 = Begin haul watch 06 = End haul watch</p> <p>SIGHTING ONLY 08 = On-effort, during dedicated watch 10 = Off-effort, vessel activity unknown 11 = Off-effort, vessel stop/anchor/drift 12 = Off-effort, sitting on gear 13 = Off-effort, transiting or searching 14 = Off-effort, towing gear 15 = Off-effort, hauling in gear 16 = Off-effort, setting out gear 17 = Off-effort, waiting for J/V transfer 18 = Off-effort, taking J/V transfer</p> <p>GENERAL 00 = Unknown 99 = Other</p>	<p>POSITION CODES:</p> <p>00 = Unknown 01 = Bow, facing forward 02 = Wheelhouse, facing forward 03 = Wheelhouse, facing backward 04 = Work deck, facing backward 05 = Work deck, facing sideways 06 = Starboard side, facing net 07 = Port Side, facing net 99 = Other</p>	<p>SIGHT CUE CODES:</p> <p>0 = Unknown 1 = Sighted with naked eye 2 = Sighted with binoculars 3 = First sighted by capt/crew, then by observer 4 = Sighted by capt/crew ONLY 9 = Other</p>	<p>ANIMAL CONDITION CODES:</p> <p>00 = Unknown 01 = Alive, see comments 04 = Alive, hook/gear in/around mouth 05 = Alive, hook/gear in/around flipper 06 = Alive, hook/gear in/around another body part 07 = Alive, hook/gear in/around several body parts 08 = Alive, seen by captain/crew ONLY 10 = Dead, condition unknown 11 = Dead, fresh 12 = Dead, moderately decomposed 13 = Dead, severely decomposed 14 = Dead, seen by captain/crew ONLY</p> <p>NOTE: If more than one code applies, choose the code that describes the most specific condition of the animal.</p>	<p>ANIMAL BEHAVIOR CODES:</p> <p>00 = Unknown 01 = Near gear, physical contact 02 = Near gear, within 50 meters 03 = Near gear, with 51-150 meters 04 = Feeding on catch 05 = Porpoising 06 = Bow riding 07 = Breaching 08 = Swimming at surface 09 = Milling 10 = Motionless at surface 11 = Vessel avoidance 12 = Vessel attraction 99 = Other</p>
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OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LAND mm/yy	/
PAGE #	<input type="checkbox"/> OF <input type="checkbox"/>
TODAY'S DATE mm/dd/yy	/ /

OBSIG 01/01/08

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
 PROTECTED SPECIES SIGHTING LOG (Back)**

EVENT TIME 24 hrs	COMMENTS	EVENT TIME 24 hrs	COMMENTS

::

OBPSH OBHAU OBSPP 06/01/05

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
PURSE SEINE SET LOG**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/ /
PAGE #	of

GEAR CODE □□□	GEAR NUMBER □□	HAUL # □□□	HAUL OBS ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	CATCH ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	INC TAKE ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	WEATHER CODE	WIND SPEED DIRECTION kn °		WAVE HEIGHT ft	DEPTH, HAUL BEGIN fm	GEAR COND CODE		
SET INFO	DATE mm/dd/yy	TIME 24 hours	LATITUDE / LONGITUDE (DD MM.M) - LORAN (XXXXX)				SET SPEED	TARGET SPECIES CODE					
BEGIN	/ /	:	STATION 1 9960-	LATITUDE / Bearing		STATION 2 9960-	LONGITUDE / Bearing						
END	/ /	:	COMMENTS						WATER TEMP (fahrenheit) °	NO 0 YES 1			
FISH PUMPING									PLANE USED?	SET BY PLANE ? ___ ___			
BEGIN	/ /	:							NO 0 _____ YES 1 _____	SET ON DEBRIS ? ___ ___			
END	/ /	:							TIME UP : hr	SUCCESSFUL SET ? ___ ___			
CAPTAIN'S CATCH ESTIMATE (prior to pumping)									TIME DOWN : hr	FISH LOST ? ___ ___			
_____ lbs									WHEN THE PUMPING PROCESS WAS COMPLETED WERE YOU ABLE TO SEE THE BUNT? _____ No (0) _____ Yes (1)				
									WERE THERE FISH PRESENT IN THE NET AT THE COMPLETION OF THE PUMPING PROCESS? _____ No (0) _____ Yes (1) _____ Could Not See (2)				
									WHEN THE NET WAS EMPTIED WHERE WAS IT LOCATED? _____ Off Stern (1) _____ Side of Vessel (2) _____ On Deck (3)				
SPECIES		CATCH DISP	POUNDS	DISP	WEIGHT		SPECIES		CATCH DISP	POUNDS	DISP	WEIGHT	
NAME	CODE	K / D		CODE	D/R	A/E	NAME	CODE	K / D		CODE	D/R	A/E

*The following is a list of examples that you should/could check while doing a vessel walk through. They are listed here to assist you in determining the relative safety of a particular vessel. The list is not comprehensive, but one that is intended to start you thinking.

- Does the vessel seem well maintained? Is it neat, clean and being maintained by a careful and prepared crew?
- Any visible hydraulic leaks?
- Is the vessel being used for the purpose it was originally designed? Have significant changes been made?
- Do obvious hazards exist? Note potentially hazardous areas/conditions. ALWAYS USE CAUTION AROUND WINCHES.
- Identify water tight doors. Can they be secured in case of severe weather or emergencies?
- Are the hatches or passageways blocked or difficult to get to?
- Does the deck gear appear to be in good working condition? Identify unsafe areas. Note overhead wires or rusted/worn shackles or blocks.
- Is the vessel long overdue for a haul out (excessive growth at waterline or hull paint in poor condition)?
- How often is the bilge pump going on?
- How is the fish hold covered? Is hatch readily available and in good condition? Are there other openings in the deck and are good hatches in place or readily available?
- Would anything prevent you from abandoning ship from the living quarters?
- What are the escape routes from every part of the vessel you might find yourself?
- Visualize egress for all possible scenarios (fire, flooding, capsized, dark, etc.) and mentally note landmarks.
- What are the most combustible items on board and where are they stored?
- Are there any exposed exhaust pipes/manifolds that might pose burn hazards?
- Is there heavy equipment on deck that is not latched down?
- Are there any exposed drive chains, pulleys or belts?
- Would you be able to access the life raft if conditions were icy or the wheelhouse was on fire?
- Wood hulls: Rust stains between planks?(may indicate weak fasteners). Protruding planks or inconsistencies in the hull? (may indicate broken frame/fasteners). Wood rot present? (if yes, likely to be worse in unseen areas).
- Are there safety issues involved with boarding?
- Is the number and size of the scuppers sufficient to be effective? Do they become plugged during fishing practices?
- Is there a station bill posted and is your role clear during all shipboard emergencies?
- Are there emergency instructions, or did the captain (or designee) give safety orientation, explaining the following: survival craft embarkation stations; survival craft assignments; fire/emergency/ abandon ship signals; procedures for rough weather; procedures for recovering man overboard; procedures for fighting fire; essential actions required of each person in an emergency?

***Required to conduct at least 1 of the following: 1) orientation, 2) safety instructions or 3) safety drills.**

*The following are examples of things to consider related to the vessel design or fishing practices in determining general concerns with vessel stability.

- Note the roll period of the vessel. Generally a boat with a quick, snappy roll is more stable than a boat that has a slow or sluggish roll period. A boat that seems to hesitate on its side, before righting, could be unstable.
- Does the vessel list excessively?
- Do the fishing practices involve a pattern of towing heavy bags or dumping the catch to one side of the vessel?

Comments

Stability

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CHECKED YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT?

Observer signature

Date

OBSDG 01/01/08

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
SCALLOP DREDGE GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG**

OBS/TRIP ID _____	
DATE LANDED mm/yy / _____	
GEAR CODE _____	GEAR NUMBER _____

PORT DREDGE (P)		If dredge is fished off the stern, check box here - AFT (A) _____ (Describe below under "Port Dredge")	
DREDGE FRAME FRAME HEIGHT _____ in FRAME WIDTH _____ ft PRESSURE PLATE USED? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___		CHAINS USED? NO YES NUMBER ROCK 0 ___ 1 ___ TICKLER 0 ___ 1 ___ CONFIGURATION STANDARD 1 ___ TURTLE CHAIN MAT 2 ___	
CHAIN BAG CHAFFING GEAR USED? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___		INSIDE RING SIZE mm (10 random measurements)	
AVG # OF LINKS BTW 2 RINGS _____ LINK STOCK SIZE _____/_____ # ROWS OF RINGS IN APRON _____		TOP OF BAG _____ BOTTOM OF BAG _____ OUTSIDE RING SIZE _____ mm	
PORT DREDGE COMMENTS			

STARBOARD DREDGE (S)			
DREDGE FRAME FRAME HEIGHT _____ in FRAME WIDTH _____ ft PRESSURE PLATE USED? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___		CHAINS USED? NO YES NUMBER ROCK 0 ___ 1 ___ TICKLER 0 ___ 1 ___ CONFIGURATION STANDARD 1 ___ TURTLE CHAIN MAT 2 ___	
CHAIN BAG CHAFFING GEAR USED? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___		INSIDE RING SIZE mm (10 random measurements)	
AVG # OF LINKS BTW 2 RINGS _____ LINK STOCK SIZE _____/_____ # ROWS OF RINGS IN APRON _____		TOP OF BAG _____ BOTTOM OF BAG _____ OUTSIDE RING SIZE _____ mm	
STARBOARD DREDGE COMMENTS			

OBSDH OBHAU OBSPP 01/01/08

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
SCALLOP DREDGE HAUL LOG**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/ /
PAGE #	of

GEAR CODE 132	GEAR NUMBER □ □	HAUL # □ □ □	HAUL OBS ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	CATCH ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	INC TAKE ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	WEATHER CODE	WIND		WAVE HEIGHT ft	DEPTH, HAUL BEGIN fm	GEAR COND CODE			
							SPEED kn	DIRECTION °						
HAUL/FISHING INFO	DATE mm/dd/yy	TIME 24 hours	LATITUDE / LONGITUDE (DD MM.M) - LORAN (XXXXX)				DREDGE OBSERVED	TOW SPEED	WIRE OUT					
BEGIN HAUL	/ /	:	STATION 1 9960-	LATITUDE / Bearing	STATION 2 9960-	LONGITUDE / Bearing	Port 1 ___ Starboard 2 ___ Both 3 ___ Aft 4 ___	. kn	fm	TARGET SPECIES	CODE			
BEGIN FISHING	/ /	:					SEA SCALLOP CLAPPERS OBS?	SEA SCALLOPS 8009 WATER TEMPERATURE (fahrenheit)						
END HAUL	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___			o				
GEAR ONBOARD	/ /	:								KEPT	DISCARDED			
COMMENTS											(optional) # OF BUSHELS . . .		AVG LB / BUSHEL . . .	

SPECIES		CATCH DISP	POUNDS	DISP	WEIGHT		SPECIES		CATCH DISP	POUNDS	DISP	WEIGHT	
NAME	CODE	K / D		CODE	D/R	A/E	NAME	CODE	K / D		CODE	D/R	A/E
Scallops, Sea		K		100									

OBSDO OBHAU 01/01/01

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
SCALLOP DREDGE OFF-WATCH HAUL LOG**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/
PAGE #	<input type="checkbox"/> of <input type="checkbox"/>

HAUL #	HAUL INFO	DATE mm/dd/yy	TIME 24 hours	LATITUDE / LONGITUDE (DD MM.M) - LORAN (XXXXX)				SEA SCALLOPS # OF BUSHELLS KEPT
				Station 1	Latitude / Bearing	Station 2	Longitude / Bearing	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		
	END	/ /	:	9960-		9960-		

OBBTU 01/01/07

NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
SEA TURTLE BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE LOG (Front)

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LAND mm/yy	/
PAGE #	<input type="checkbox"/> OF <input type="checkbox"/>

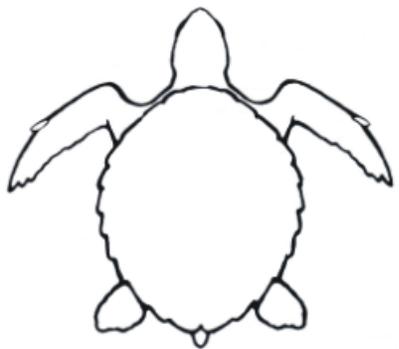
PSID #	SPECIES NAME	TAGS		MEASUREMENTS (Curv)			IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA						NUMBER OF SAMPLES		
		Scan? 0=N 1=Y	Pit Tag Number	Notch-to-Tip Length cm	Notch-to-Notch Length cm	Width cm	Vertebral Scute Count	Lateral (Costal) Scute Count	Infra-marginal Scute Count	1Pair Pre-Frontals? 0=N 1=Y	Overlap Scutes? 0=N 1=Y	Dorsal Color Code	Whole	Biopsy / Skin	Other list in comments
				.	.	.									
				.	.	.									
				.	.	.									
				.	.	.									

General Comments

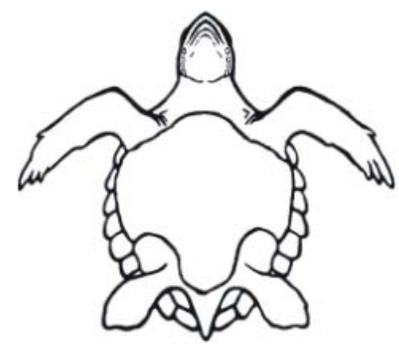
DORSAL COLOR CODES:
 01 = Black
 02 = Gray-Green
 03 = Orng/Red-Brown
 04 = Brown
 99 = Other
 00 = Unknown

Sketch and describe ID characteristics, overall condition of carapace, plastron and soft tissues, note any scavenger damage and/or decomposition, new and/or healed wounds, tag and biopsy location, any gear on the animal, etc.

PSID # _____



Dorsal View



Ventral View

OBBTU 01/01/07

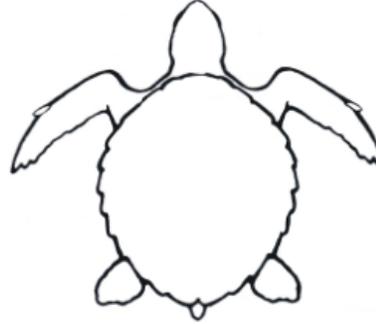
NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

SEA TURTLE BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE LOG (Back)

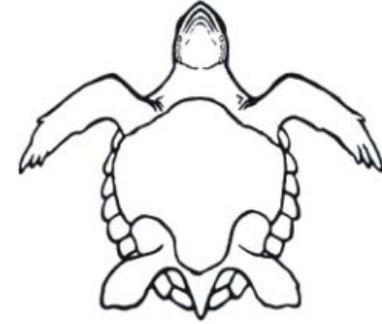
OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LAND mm/yy	/
PAGE #	<input type="checkbox"/> OF <input type="checkbox"/>

Sketch and describe ID characteristics, overall condition of carapace, plastron and soft tissues, note any scavenger damage and/or decomposition, new and/or healed wounds, tag and biopsy location, any gear on the animal, etc.

PSID # _____



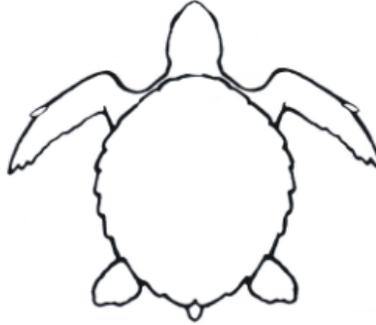
Dorsal View



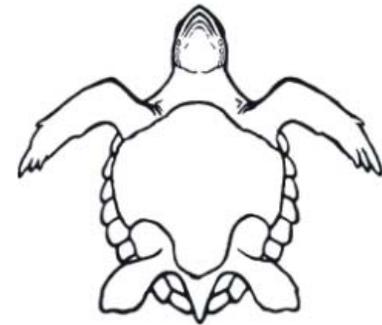
Ventral View

Sketch and describe ID characteristics, overall condition of carapace, plastron and soft tissues, note any scavenger damage and/or decomposition, new and/or healed wounds, tag and biopsy location, any gear on the animal, etc.

PSID # _____



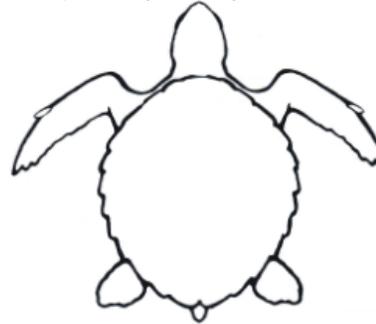
Dorsal View



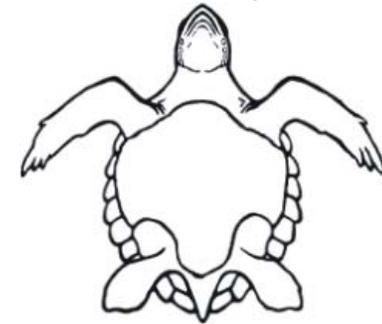
Ventral View

Sketch and describe ID characteristics, overall condition of carapace, plastron and soft tissues, note any scavenger damage and/or decomposition, new and/or healed wounds, tag and biopsy location, any gear on the animal, etc.

PSID # _____



Dorsal View



Ventral View

OBOTG 01/01/08

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
TRAWL GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG (Back)**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/
PAGE #	<input type="text"/> OF <input type="text"/>

GEAR CODE	GEAR NUMBER(S)	EXCLUDER/SEPARATOR DEVICE TYPE CODES:	ESCAPE OUTLET SHAPE CODES:	ESCAPE OUTLET LOCATION CODES:
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>		00 = Unknown 24 = Bent Rod T.E.D. 01 = Nordmore Grate 25 = Conch T.E.D. 03 = Separator Panel 26 = Flat Bottom T.E.D. 04 = Guiding Device 27 = Whelk T.E.D. 05 = Raised Footrope 28 = Flexible T.E.D. 20 = T.E.D., Unknown 29 = Parker Soft T.E.D. 21 = Standard T.E.D. 30 = Experimental T.E.D. 22 = Weedless T.E.D. 98 = Combination (Comment) 23 = Flounder T.E.D. 99 = Other (Comment)	00 = Unknown 01 = Rectangular 05 = Trapezoid 06 = Square 07 = Diamond 08 = Triangular 09 = Semi-Circle 11 = Horizontal Cut 99 = Other (Comment)	0 = Unknown 1 = Net Top 2 = Net Bottom 3 = Net Side 4 = Codend Top 5 = Codend Bottom 8 = Combination (Comment) 9 = Other (Comment)
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS				

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used to ensure that the data for a specific trip is not provided to a person who does not have authority to obtain that data under the confidentiality requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Meeting those confidentiality requirements is critical for collecting information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the MSA, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the MMPA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 2 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: Amy Van Atten, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026. Providing the requested information is required to deliver the copy of the trip to the requested location and to release the trip data. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

POLICY FOR DATA REQUESTS OF NMFS OBSERVER-OBTAINED INFORMATION

- 1) The only individuals who may request and receive data include: the owner(s), or the captain acting as an authorized representative for the owner(s), or a vessel participating in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Observer Program. No other individuals may be issued any data under this policy.

- 2) Any data request must be submitted in writing on a form letter which may be obtained from a NMFS Observer, or the address below. Two signatures are required on this letter: that of the individual requesting the data, and that of the individual releasing the data. All letters must then be returned to the following address:

Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1097

Any questions or other requests relating to data release should also be directed to the above address.

- 3) It should be understood that upon release of the requested data, the recipient then becomes responsible for it.

- 4) The individual signing the letter as the “releaser” must issue the information in compliance with this policy.

- 5) Data may not be released upon an oral request, or without first completing and signing the authorized release letter mentioned above.
- 6) Field diaries do not meet the specifications of releasable data under the policy. No field diaries may be copied for, or reviewed by, vessel owners or captains.
- 7) Release of data for trips in which more than 1 vessel participated (i.e. pair trawl trips) may only occur if both vessel owners or captains complete and sign data release letters.
- 8) Any requests for historical data (i.e. data that an observer has already mailed in) should be forwarded to the address above.
- 9) All letters should be completed in pen, not pencil.

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
TRIP DATA RELEASE FORM**

Request Date _____/_____/_____

Observer Trip ID # _____

Vessel Name _____

USCG Doc # _____

Date Landed _____/_____/_____

PRINT Name

Signature

PRINT Mailing Address:

Captain
 Owner

Copies Released By: _____ Date _____ Edited? Yes ___ No ___
(For NMFS Office Use)

▼ TEAR AT PERFORATION AND RETAIN BELOW SECTION FOR YOUR RECORDS ▼

The data you receive may be preliminary and not yet completely reviewed.

Observer Trip ID # _____

Date Requested _____

Mail Request To:

Questions or Comments:

Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1097

Patricia Yoos
508-495-2338

NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
TRIP DATA RELEASE FORM

Request Date 05 / 01 / 06

Observer Trip ID # A02012L

Vessel Name JO JO

USCG Doc # 1234567

Date Landed 05 / 01 / 06

JOHN SMITH
PRINT Name

JOHN SMITH
Signature

PRINT Mailing Address:
PO BOX 1234
GLOUCESTER, MA 01930

Captain
 Owner

Copies Released By: _____ Date _____ Edited? Yes ___ No ___
(For NMFS Office Use)

▼ TEAR AT PERFORATION AND RETAIN BELOW SECTION FOR YOUR RECORDS ▼

The data you receive may be preliminary and not yet completely reviewed.

Observer Trip ID # A02012L

Date Requested 05/01/06

Mail Request To:

Questions or Comments:

Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1097

Patricia Yoos
508-495-2338

OBTTG 01/01/08

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
TWIN TRAWL GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG (Front)**

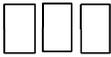
GEAR CODE <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	OBS/TRIP ID	
	DATE LANDED mm/yy	/
	PAGE #	<input type="checkbox"/> OF <input type="checkbox"/>

GEAR NUMBER <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	NET NAME	NET TYPE	NET BUILDER	CODEND HUNG Unknown 0 ___ Diamond 1 ___ Square 2 ___ Square, Wrapped 3 ___ Combination 8 ___	GEAR MOUNTED ELECTRONICS USED ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___ NUMBER OF TRANSDUCERS TYPE Unknown 0 ___ Wired 1 ___ Wireless 2 ___ Both 3 ___	EXCLUDER/SEPARATOR DEVICE USED? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___ Type Code _____ T.E.D. EXTENSION Mesh Size ____ . ____ in
NET LOCATION Port 1 ___ Starboard 2 ___ Other 9 ___	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL TYPE NET BODY CODEND Unknown 00 ___ Nylon 01 ___ Poly 02 ___ Kevlar® 03 ___ Spectra® 04 ___ Tenex® 05 ___ Nomex® 06 ___ Combination 98 ___ Other 99 ___		LENGTH MEASUREMENTS Headrope _____ ft Footrope/Sweep _____ ft Ground Cable _____ fm Bridle _____ fm		TWINE TYPE Single 1 ___ Double 2 ___ Single on Top/ 3 ___ Double on Bottom Other 9 ___	ESCAPE OUTLET USED? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___ TYPE Unknown 0 ___ Furuno® 1 ___ Simrad® 2 ___ Northstar Tech 3 ___ Notus 4 ___ Marport 5 ___ Scanmar 6 ___ Combination 8 ___ Other 9 ___
DOORS USED? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	WEIGHT OF ONE DOOR _____ kg		FISHING CIRCLE # MESHES _____ MESH SIZE ____ . ____ in		MESH SIZE _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm _____ mm	BRAND Unknown 0 ___ Furuno® 1 ___ Simrad® 2 ___ Northstar Tech 3 ___ Notus 4 ___ Marport 5 ___ Scanmar 6 ___ Combination 8 ___ Other 9 ___
NETS CONNECTED? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___		KITE PANEL KITE USED? Number _____ NO 0 ___ Width _____ in YES 1 ___ Length _____ in		COMMENTS		GROUND GEAR TYPE GROUND CABLE BRIDLE/ LEG SWEEP Unknown 00 ___ Chain 01 ___ Cable / Wire 02 ___ Wrapped Cable 03 ___ Rock Hopper 04 ___ Roller 05 ___ Rubber Cookie 06 ___ Bobbin 07 ___ Plate Gear 08 ___ None 98 ___ Other 99 ___
		SWEEP GEAR Number _____ Diameter _____ in		FLOATS Number _____ Diameter _____ in		STRENGTHENER USED? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___ CHAFING GEAR USED? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___
				LOCATION Unknown 0 ___ Headrope 1 ___ Wings 2 ___ Footrope 3 ___ Headrope & Footrope 4 ___ Door 5 ___ Codend 6 ___ Other Combo 8 ___ Other 9 ___		MESH SIZE _____ in LENGTH # MESHES _____ OR _____ in WIDTH # MESHES _____ OR _____ in SHAPE Type Code _____ LOCATION Type Code _____
				# OF RECEIVERS		

OBTTG 01/01/08

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
TWIN TRAWL GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG (Back)**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/
PAGE #	OF

		00 = Unknown 01 = Nordmore Grate 03 = Separator Panel 04 = Guiding Device 05 = Raised Footrope 20 = T.E.D., Unknown 21 = Standard T.E.D. 22 = Weedless T.E.D. 23 = Flounder T.E.D.	24 = Bent Rod T.E.D. 25 = Conch T.E.D. 26 = Flat Bottom T.E.D. 27 = Whelk T.E.D. 28 = Flexible T.E.D. 29 = Parker Soft T.E.D. 30 = Experimental T.E.D. 98 = Combination 99 = Other	00 = Unknown 01 = Rectangular 05 = Trapezoid 06 = Square 07 = Diamond 08 = Triangular 09 = Semi-Circle 11 = Horizontal Cut 99 = Other (Comment)	0 = Unknown 1 = Net Top 2 = Net Bottom 3 = Net Side 4 = Codend Top 5 = Codend Bottom 8 = Combination (Comment) 9 = Other (Comment)
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS					

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OBTHH OBHAU OBSPP 01/01/07

**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
TWIN TRAWL HAUL LOG**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/ /
PAGE #	of

GEAR CODE □□□	GEAR NUMBER □□	HAUL # □□□	HAUL OBS ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	CATCH ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	INC TAKE ? NO 0 ___ YES 1 ___	WEATHER CODE	WIND SPEED DIRECTION o kn	WAVE HEIGHT ft	DEPTH, HAUL BEGIN fm	GEAR COND CODE	
HAUL/FISHING INFO	DATE mm/dd/yy	TIME 24 hours	LATITUDE / LONGITUDE (DD MM.M) - LORAN (XXXXX)				NUMBER OF TURNS	TOW SPEED kn	WIRE OUT fm	TARGET SPECIES CODE	
BEGIN HAUL	/ /	:	STATION 1 9960-	LATITUDE / Bearing	STATION 2 9960-	LONGITUDE / Bearing	WATER TEMP fahrenheit		NET Port 1 ___ OBSERVED Starboard 2 ___ Both 3 ___		
BEGIN FISHING	/ /	:	COMMENTS				VERTICAL OPENING ** ft		HORIZONTAL OPENING ** ft		
END HAUL	/ /	:					9960-		9960-		DOOR SPREAD ** ft
GEAR ONBOARD	/ /	:									

SPECIES		CATCH DISP	POUNDS	DISP	WEIGHT	
NAME	CODE	K / D		CODE	D/R	A/E

** Only fill in if gear mounted electronics are used.

SPECIES		CATCH DISP	POUNDS	DISP	WEIGHT	
NAME	CODE	K / D		CODE	D/R	A/E

**VESSEL REIMBURSEMENT FORM
(MULTI-DAY TRIPS ONLY)**

TRIP ID # _____

Subsistence Reimbursement form for Vessel Master on F/V _____

for National Marine Fisheries Service observer _____

for period of deployment from _____ to _____ for a total of _____ days

at \$25.00 per day for a total of \$ _____

Observer's Signature

Date

Captain's Signature

Date

Please make check payable to _____

Attn: _____

F/V _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

**MAIL TO: PROGRAM MANAGER
FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM
166 WATER STREET
WOODS HOLE, MA 02543**

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used to reimburse you for specific expenses during the observed trip identified on the form. That trip was observed in order to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 3 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: Amy Van Atten, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026. Providing the requested information is needed in order to provide proper payment to the vessel. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service At-sea Hake Observer Program
DATA RELEASE FOR COPIES OF OBSERVER DATA

(Date of Request)

Dear ASHOP Coordinator:

I, _____, request and authorize the release to myself observer data collected on the vessel _____, USCG or state registration # _____.

I: (circle one and fill in permit/license # if applicable)

Own permit/license #: _____

Hold permit/license #: _____

Do not own or hold a permit or license but am the captain of the above vessel

Do not own or hold a permit or license but am the vessel owner of the above vessel

I am requesting all observer data collected from _____ to _____.

I am making this request as the permit holder or the authorized representative of the owner(s), of the said permit/license/vessel. I understand that I am responsible for these data upon release to me by NOAA Fisheries. I further understand that the data I receive may be preliminary, and not yet completely reviewed by the At-sea Hake Observer Program.

(SIGNED NAME)

Address to which data should be sent:

Name

Street/ PO Box

City, State, Zip

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used to ensure that the data for a specific trip is not provided to a person who does not have authority to obtain that data under the confidentiality requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Meeting those confidentiality requirements is critical for collecting information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the MSA, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the MMPA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: At-sea Hake Observer Program, 2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, WA 98112. Providing the requested information is required to obtain the observer data you have requested. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Vessel Safety Checklist

VESSEL NAME: _____ VESSEL PERMIT: _____

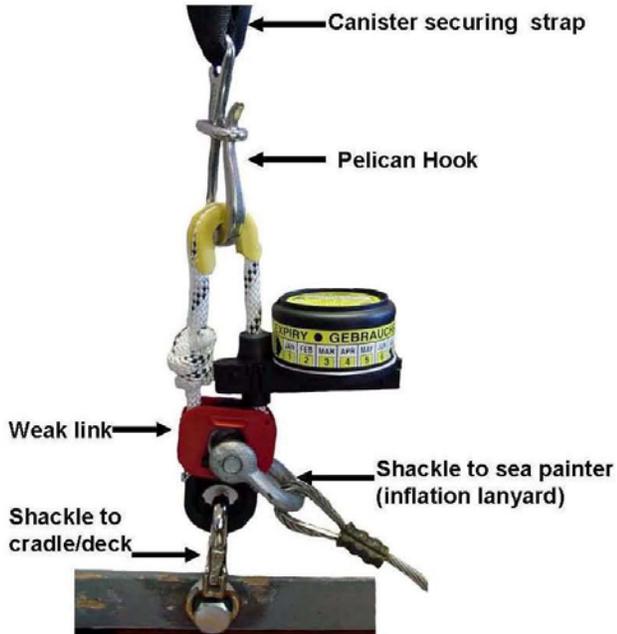
Ensure the USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety decal is not expired based on the information noted on the face of the decal.

Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety EXAMINATION

DATE ISSUED _____		EXPIRES
VESEL Documented <input type="checkbox"/> Undocumented <input type="checkbox"/>		2007 <input type="checkbox"/>
LOCATION Beyond Boundary Line <input type="checkbox"/> Inside Boundary Line <input type="checkbox"/> Inside <input type="checkbox"/> Outside <input type="checkbox"/>		2008 <input type="checkbox"/>
3 NM <input type="checkbox"/>	THIS VESSEL MEETS ALL	2009 <input type="checkbox"/>
12 NM <input type="checkbox"/>	USCG COMMERCIAL	2010 <input type="checkbox"/>
20 NM <input type="checkbox"/>	FISHING INDUSTRY	2011 <input type="checkbox"/>
50 NM <input type="checkbox"/>	VESSEL REGULATIONS	JAN JUL
>100 NM <input type="checkbox"/>		FEB AUG
		MAR SEP
		APR OCT
		MAY NOV
		JUN DEC

NO. _____

CG-5587A (Rev. 6/06) U.S. Department of Homeland Security



Is the decal valid? Y N

LIFE RAFTS:
 Number of: _____
 Total capacity: _____
 # of crew & observer/s on board _____

Sufficient capacity? Y N

Life raft(s) able to float free? (Note: some vessels have their rafts in a float free cradle - this is an approved cradling system, so long as the painter line is properly attached to a weak link.) Y N

Service Due sticker exp. date: ___/___ (expires on date displayed)

Hydrostatic release exp. date: ___/___ (expires on date displayed)

Your raft assignment: _____

EPIRB: (Visual inspection only. Please leave all testing/handling to crew)
 Location(s): _____

Battery exp. date: _____ (expires on date displayed)

Hydrostatic release expiration date: ___/___ (expires on date displayed)

Located in a float free location?: Y N

NOAA Registration Sticker:

Exp. date: _____ (expires on date displayed)

Registered to this vessel (name of vessel displayed): Y N

Alphanumeric code on sticker matches code on EPIRB: Y N

Signal tested (or asked to see station log in wheelhouse for most recent test. Signal should be tested monthly): Y N

IMMERSION SUIT/PFDs:

Available for everyone on board? Y N

Location(s): _____

Functioning strobe on personal suit? Y N

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

Extinguisher(s) found in every main area/corridor? Y N

Extinguishers in 'good and serviceable condition' (gauge in the green, low amounts of rust, canister in good condition, unobstructed, hoses attached, service tags available)? Y N

FLARES: (ask captain for assistance)

Location(s): _____

Expiration dates checked? Y N
 (expires on date displayed)

If checked, number of flares: _____

LIFE RINGS/SLINGS:

Number of: _____ / _____

Easily accessible?: Y N

Name of vessel displayed on each? Y N

Location(s): _____

ADDITIONAL SAFETY CHECKS:		FIRST AID MATERIALS:	
Watertight doors - do they close properly?	Y N	Location(s): _____	
Hatches/passageways - are they unobstructed?	Y N	Is there an individual trained in CPR/First Aid on board?	Y N
Discussed safe places to work on deck and in factory with captain/crew?	Y N	Who?: _____	
Discussed refrigerant leak procedures?	Y N		
Type of refrigerant used _____		Radios:	
Discussed reporting/identifying inoperative alarm/fire systems?	Y N	How many SSB and VHF radios?: _____ / _____	
Did you hear the general alarm?	Y N	Are emergency call instructions posted?	Y N
Where will you go during emergencies: _____	Y N	Were procedures for making an emergency call discussed?	Y N
SAFETY ORIENTATION:		EMERGENCY DRILLS AND DATE(S) CONDUCTED:	
If you did not complete drills upon embarking the vessel, did the captain use this safety checklist to complete the required vessel safety orientation?	Y N	Fire _____	
Did the vessel conduct a safety orientation?	Y N	Abandon Ship _____	
Who gave the orientation? _____		Man Overboard _____	
(Detail what was covered in the comment section below)		Vessel Flooding/stabilization _____	
		General alarm activation _____	
		Donning immersion suits _____	
		Radio/visual distress signals _____	
		Were the drills hands-on involving actual gear?	Y N
		Did you participate in the drills?	Y N

Observer Name: _____ Cruise #: _____

Observer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Captain Name: _____

Captain Signature (optional): _____ Date: _____

*Did the vessel request a copy of the Checklist? Y N

*If so, were you able to supply them with a copy? Y N

Additional Comments: (All "N" responses require a comment)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement for the At-sea Hake Observer Program

Information collected through the observer program is used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, these biological and economic data collection programs contribute to legally mandated analyses required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law.

Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 20 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: At-sea Hake Observer Program, 2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, WA 98112.

Providing information related to observer and vessel safety is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746. However, all other requested information is voluntary. Although you are under no legal obligation to answer non-safety related observer questions, we would appreciate your support as it ensures observer data can be used for its intended purpose.

The information collected will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx
Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service West Coast Groundfish Observer Program
DATA RELEASE FOR COPIES OF OBSERVER DATA

(Date of Request)

Dear WCGOP Coordinator:

I, _____, request and authorize the release to myself observer data collected on the vessel _____, USCG or state registration # _____.

I: (circle one and fill in permit/license # if applicable)

Own permit/license #: _____

Hold permit/license #: _____

Do not own or hold a permit or license but am the captain of the above vessel

Do not own or hold a permit or license but am the vessel owner of the above vessel

I am requesting all observer data collected from _____ to _____.

I am making this request as the permit holder or the authorized representative of the owner(s), of the said permit/license/vessel. I understand that I am responsible for these data upon release to me by NOAA Fisheries. I further understand that the data I receive may be preliminary, and not yet completely reviewed by the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program.

(SIGNED NAME)

Address to which data should be sent:

Name

Street/ PO Box

City, State, Zip

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used to ensure that the data for a specific trip is not provided to a person who does not have authority to obtain that data under the confidentiality requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Meeting those confidentiality requirements is critical for collecting information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the MSA, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the MMPA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: West Coast Groundfish Observer Program, 2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, WA 98112. Providing the requested information is required to obtain the observer data you have requested. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx
Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

Northwest Fisheries Science Center
2725 Montlake Boulevard East
Seattle, Washington 98112-2097
Phone (206) 860-3381
FAX (206) 860-3394
November 20, 2008

Dear:

As you know, a mandatory observer program for West Coast groundfish was established by federal regulations that went into effect on May 24, 2001 (50 C.F.R. Part 660). Copies of the regulations for this program are attached.

Under the authority of these regulations, **your permit, GF0280, and any vessel it is registered to, has been selected for observer coverage during the two-month period beginning January 1, 2009.** During the period for which your permit is selected, you will be required to notify NMFS at least 24 hours in advance of fishing so that an observer may accompany the trip. If you notify us that you do not plan to fish West Coast groundfish at any time during this period, you will be placed on a pending list. Once you have been placed on this pending list, you **MUST NOT** resume fishing in the West Coast groundfish fishery until you have notified us. A NMFS coordinator or designated agent can provide further information to you.

Prior to the date that the permit has been selected for observer coverage, the vessel registered to the permit, must obtain a Coast Guard safety inspection decal through a dockside examination. These can be obtained through your local US Coast Guard.

You are responsible for providing accommodations and food for the observer while he/she is aboard your vessel. Please review the "Observer Insurance Coverage Provided by Observer Contractor" overview that lists the minimum insurance requirements that the observer's employer provides. We strongly encourage each vessel to contact their insurance carrier to discuss their liability while an observer is aboard and determine if purchasing additional insurance is appropriate.

The observer can share the collected data with the permit owner only. If you are interested in having a copy of the data collected, please ask the observer after completing the trip.

The enclosed document entitled "Paperwork Reduction Act Information" informs you of your rights under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). The PRA requires federal agencies to obtain clearance in order to ask questions of members of the public. All questions asked by west coast groundfish observers have been approved under OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx through xx/xx/2012. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and implementing regulations, you are required to answer any question related to observer and vessel safety. However, you are not required to answer any other question asked by the observer. Your voluntary willingness to answer all questions asked by observers would be appreciated as it will ensure observer data collected on your vessel can be used in future analyzes.

The observer program can be contacted toll free at (866) 780-8064, or you can send questions to the program's email address at NWFSC.observerprogram@noaa.gov. Please contact us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Janell Majewski
Program Lead,
West Coast Groundfish Observer Program

cc: F/NWR02 - F. Lockhar

Paperwork Reduction Act Information

Information collected through the observer program is used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, these biological and economic data collection programs contribute to legally mandated analyses required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law.

Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 34 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: West Coast Groundfish Observer Program, 2725 Montlake Blvd. East, Seattle, WA 98112.

Providing information related to observer and vessel safety is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746. However, all other requested information is voluntary. Although you are under no legal obligation to answer non-safety related observer questions, we would appreciate your support as it ensures observer data can be used for its intended purpose.

The information collected will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

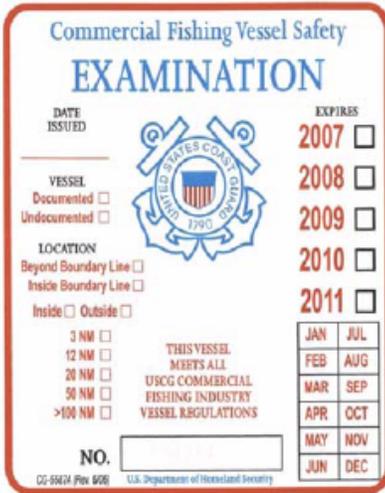
OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx

Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

WCGOP Vessel Safety Checklist

Vessel Name: _____

USCG/State Registration #: _____



Complete the sticker exactly as it appears on the vessel. Be sure the following fields are checked:

1. Documented?
2. Location
3. Issued Year
4. Issued Month

Fill in the NO. box

Is the decal valid?
 Y N

ADDITIONAL SAFETY CHECKS:

First Aid Materials present? **Y N** _____
Location(s):
 Who on-board other than the observer is currently certified for CPR/First Aid?

First and Last Name/Position

of Working Radios: _____ Type: _____
 Watertight doors/hatches work properly? **Y N N/A**
 Hatches/passageways unobstructed? **Y N**
 Is there adequate means of escape? **Y N**
 Is there a Station Bill posted? **Y N**
 Were you given Emergency directions? **Y N**

What were they? _____
 Did you see the bilge pumps? **Y N N/A**
 Did you hear the general/high water alarms? **Y N N/A**
 Is there an anchor present? **Y N**
 Was a wheel watch arranged? **Y N**
 Charts and compass present? **Y N N/A**

LIFE RAFTS:

Inflatable Buoyant apparatus None N/A (circle one)

Total capacity: [] persons Total # of people on board: []

Life rafts able to float free? **Y N**

Service Due sticker expiration date*: _____/_____/_____

Hydrostatic release expiration date*: _____/_____/_____

Liferaft equipment? SOLAS A SOLAS B Coastal (circle one)

IMMERSION SUITS/PFD'S:

Immersion Suits on board? **Y N N/A**

Is there one for each person on board? **Y N**

Location(s): _____

Is there a PFD for each person on board? **Y N**

Location(s): _____

FLARES (ask for assistance)

Location(s): _____

Handheld: Number _____ Expiration Dates _____/_____/_____

Parachute: Number _____ Expiration Dates _____/_____/_____

Smoke: Number _____ Expiration Dates _____/_____/_____

Meteor: Number _____ Expiration Dates _____/_____/_____

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

Present: **Y N**

Location(s): _____

Extinguishers in serviceable condition? **Y N**

EPIRB'S:

Visual inspection only. Please leave all testing/handling to crew.

Present: **Y N N/A**

Location(s): _____

Battery expiration date*: _____/_____/_____

Hydrostatic release exp date*: _____/_____/_____

Located in a float free location? **Y N**

NOAA Registration Sticker: _____

Expiration Date*: _____/_____/_____

Registered to this vessel (name of vessel displayed)? **Y N**

Alphanumeric code on sticker matches code on EPIRB? **Y N**

Signal Tested? (or asked to see station log in wheelhouse for most recent test. Signal should be tested monthly.) **Y N**

TYPE IV THROWABLE PFD'S:

Type: Ring Cushion Lifesling (circle one)

How many? _____ Easily Accessible? **Y N**

Location(s): _____

Observer Signature _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____ *expires the last day of the month displayed

Vessel Checklist

PLACEMENT CHECK LIST

Trip Number:		Observer:	
Vessel Name:		Permit Number:	
Placement Meeting		<u>Placement Meeting Participants</u>	
Date:	Time:		
Captain:	<u>Phone Number</u>		
Owner/Agent:	Others:		
Vessel Specification		Deep (Tuna) or Shallow (Swordfish) Trip?	
Communication Equipment: SSB / VHF/ Sat (comment if non-operational)		De-hooking equipment: <input type="checkbox"/> Long-handled de-hooker <input type="checkbox"/> Long-handled line cutter <input type="checkbox"/> Short-handled de-hooker <input type="checkbox"/> Mouth Gags <input type="checkbox"/> Bolt Cutters <input type="checkbox"/> Pole Gaff <input type="checkbox"/> Dip Net <input type="checkbox"/> Tire Shallow-Set Trips: <input type="checkbox"/> Circle hooks (18/0, 10% offset) <input type="checkbox"/> Mackerel type bait <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Dye Tubs x _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Obs. Sat. tag. #: _____	
Call sign:			
Water Supply: B / T / H2O Maker			
Tank Volume:			
Head: Y / N			
Shower: Y / N			
Number of Bunks:			
Reasonable Privacy: Y / N			
Fishing Trip Information			
Trip Length:			
Number of Sets:			
Number of Crew:			
Vessel Safety Checklist			
<u>Expiration Date</u>			
Distress Signals: 6 X Hand			
3 X Parachute			
3 X Smoke			
Number of Charged Fire Extinguishers:			
Number of correctly installed Ring Life Buoys:		Placement mtg. translation: Y / N / N/A	
Number of PFDs:		Small Entity Compliance Guide Translation:	
First Aid Kit: Y / N		Y / N / N/A	
First Aid and CPR Certified: Y / N		Bag / Sat. phone #:	
Emergency Procedures Posted: Y / N			

<p style="text-align: center;">Survival Craft</p> <p>Number of Persons: Correct installation: Y/N Manufacture Date: Inspection Date: Hydrostatic Date:</p>	<p>Comments: Note safety deficiencies that do not prevent observers placement, was a station bill provided to vessel, etc.)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon</p> <p>Battery: + / - Correct installation: Y/N Hydrostatic Date: UIN:</p>	
<p>CG Inspection Number: CG Inspection Date:</p>	

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 70 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 665.28, Conditions for At-sea observer coverage for all other questions, excluding the economic questions. Providing the requested economic information is voluntary. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

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Observer ID

**DOC/NOAA Fisheries
Pacific Islands Region
Longline Observer Program**

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Trip No.

--	--	--

Set No.

Gear Configuration

Hooks/Floats

No. Floats

Hook Type Code

- 01 Tuna
- 02 J-hook
- 03 Offset Tuna
- 04 Offset J-hook
- 05 Circle
- 06 Other
- 07 Offset Circle

Hook Size

Hooks Per Float

No. Hooks Set

Fishing Techniques

Reported Target Depth m

Target Species Code

Name:

Bait Code

- 01 Large Squid
- 02 Small Squid
- 03 Saury (Sanma)
- 04 Mackerel (Saba)
- 05 Mixed
- 06 Other
- 07 Sardine

Light Devices

Type Code

- 00 None
- 01 Light Stick
- 02 Glow Bead
- 03 Other

No. Devices

Color Code

- 01 Blue
- 02 Green
- 03 Black
- 04 Pink
- 05 White
- 06 Yellow
- 07 Magenta
- 08 Mixed
- 09 Other
- 10 Clear
- 11 Red
- 12 Orange
- 13 Silver/Metal

Main Line

Material Code

- 01 Mono
- 02 Multi
- 03 Other

Diameter mm

Reported Length m

Reported Test lbs

No. Strands

Color Code

- 01 Blue
- 02 Green
- 03 Black
- 04 Pink
- 05 White
- 06 Yellow
- 07 Magenta
- 08 Mixed
- 09 Other
- 10 Clear
- 11 Red
- 12 Orange
- 13 Silver/Metal

Float Line

Material Code

- 01 Mono
- 02 Multi
- 03 Other

Diameter mm

Measured Length m

Branch Line

Material Code

- 01 Mono
- 02 Multi
- 03 Other

Diameter mm

Measured Length m

Reported Test lbs

No. Strands

Color Code

- 01 Blue
- 02 Green
- 03 Black
- 04 Pink
- 05 White
- 06 Yellow
- 07 Magenta
- 08 Mixed
- 09 Other
- 10 Clear
- 11 Red
- 12 Orange
- 13 Silver/Metal

Leader

Material Code

- 01 Mono
- 02 Wire
- 03 Other

Diameter mm

Measured Length m

Reported Test lbs

Weight Size g

Observer Evaluation Questions

Vessel Name: _____ Date of interview: _____

Captain Name: _____ Observer: _____

- Conduct this interview away from the observer.
- Give the completed interview forms to the Training Coordinator.

Questions for captains and crew:

1. Where was observer positioned during the haul back?
2. How did the observer get the fishing positions?
3. Did the observer tell you how to fish or dictate fishing procedures?
4. Did the observer help with housekeeping? If no, was the observer asked?
5. Did the observer maintain reasonable hygiene?
6. Would you have this observer again?
7. Did the observer unnecessarily interfere with fishing operations? If so, how often?
Please describe.
8. Was the observer courteous and polite?
9. Was the observer respectful towards the crew?
10. Did the observer monitor all the sets for the first hour, and all the haul backs?

11. Please list any additional comments you have about this observer or the observer program.

12. Did the observer ask to take home any fish? If yes, did the observer pay you for the fish?

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to trip expenditures questions is estimated to average 10 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 665.28, Conditions for At-sea observer coverage for all other questions, excluding the economic questions. Providing the requested economic information is voluntary. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx
Expires xx/xx/2012

Observer Program/Economic Data Form

"Why do we collect economic data?" "Because the National Marine Fisheries Services is required to conduct economic analysis."

LONGLINE TRIP EXPENDITURES IN AMERICAN SAMOA

Ask on the way home & complete every question

1. TRIP INFORMATION

TRIP NUMBER	DATE OF DEPARTURE	DATE OF RETURN	DAYS FISHED
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> DAY <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> MONTH <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> YEAR	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> DAY <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> MONTH <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> YEAR	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

2. FUEL

PRICE PER GALLON	GALLONS USED	TOTAL COST OF FUEL
\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

3. ENGINE OIL

UNIT (Check One)	PRICE PER UNIT	QUANTITY PER UNIT USED	TOTAL COST
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 GALLONS	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 GALLONS (1 BUCKET)		<input type="text"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> 55 GALLONS (1 DRUM)		<input type="text"/>	

4. BAIT

TYPE 1 (Check One)	PRICE PER BOX	BOXES USED	TOTAL COST
<input type="checkbox"/> SQUID	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> MACKEREL			
<input type="checkbox"/> SARDINE			
<input type="checkbox"/> ANCHOVY			
<input type="checkbox"/> SANMA			

TYPE 2 (Check One)	PRICE PER BOX	BOXES USED	TOTAL COST
<input type="checkbox"/> SQUID	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> . <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> MACKEREL			
<input type="checkbox"/> SARDINE			
<input type="checkbox"/> ANCHOVY			
<input type="checkbox"/> SANMA			

5. BOAT FREEZER COSTS (i.e. cost to operate refrigeration system onboard the vessel for this trip)

\$.

6. FISHING GEAR COSTS (i.e. replaced items such as hooks, line, floats, raingear, etc. for this trip)

\$.

7. PROVISIONS COSTS (i.e. groceries, bottled water, etc. for this trip)

\$.

8. TRIP COMMUNICATIONS COST (i.e. satellite phone calls, email, etc. for this trip)

\$.

Don't forget to fill the backside!

Observer Program/Economic Data Form

“Why do we collect economic data?” “Because the National Marine Fisheries Services is required to conduct economic analysis.”

understanding the questions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 665.28, Conditions for At-sea observer coverage for all other questions, excluding the economic questions. Providing the requested economic information is voluntary. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx
Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

Observer Program Economic Trip Cost Form

“Why do we collect economic data?”...“Because the National Marine Fisheries Services is required to conduct economic analysis.”

(HI 10-24-07) LONGLINE TRIP EXPENDITURE FORM

(Ask information on the way home)

1. TRIP INFORMATION

VESSEL NAME _____

TRIP TYPE (Check One)

SWORDFISH

TUNA

TRIP NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--

DATE OF DEPARTURE

--	--

DAY

--	--	--

MONTH

2	0		
---	---	--	--

YEAR

DATE OF RETURN

--	--

DAY

--	--	--

MONTH

2	0		
---	---	--	--

YEAR

2. FUEL

PRICE PER GALLON

\$.		
----	--	---	--	--

GALLONS USED

		,			
--	--	---	--	--	--

TOTAL COST OF FUEL

\$,			.		
----	--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--

3. ENGINE OIL

UNIT (Check One)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1 GALLONS
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 GALLONS (1 BAG/BUCKET)
<input type="checkbox"/>	55 GALLONS (1 DRUM)

PRICE PER UNIT

\$.		
----	--	--	---	--	--

QUANTITY PER UNIT USED

	GALLONS
	BAGS
	DRUMS

TOTAL COST OF OIL

\$.		
----	--	--	---	--	--

4. BAIT

TYPE 1 (Check One)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SQUID	<input type="checkbox"/>	MACKEREL
<input type="checkbox"/>	SARDINE	<input type="checkbox"/>	ANCHOVY
<input type="checkbox"/>	SANMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	

PRICE PER BOX

\$.
----	--	--	---

BOXES USED

--	--	--	--

TOTAL COST

\$,			.
----	--	---	--	--	---

TYPE 2 (Check One)

<input type="checkbox"/>	SQUID	<input type="checkbox"/>	MACKEREL
<input type="checkbox"/>	SARDINE	<input type="checkbox"/>	ANCHOVY
<input type="checkbox"/>	SANMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	

PRICE PER BOX

\$.
----	--	--	---

BOXES USED

--	--	--	--

TOTAL COST

\$,			.
----	--	---	--	--	---

5. ICE (Check One)

ICE MAKER

NO ICE MAKER

UNIT (Check One)

<input type="checkbox"/>	BLOCKS
<input type="checkbox"/>	TONS
<input type="checkbox"/>	LBS

PRICE PER UNIT

\$.
----	--	--	---

UNITS USED

--	--	--	--

TOTAL COST

\$,			.
----	--	---	--	--	---

6. FISHING GEAR COSTS (i.e. replaced items such as hooks, line, floats, raingear, etc. for this trip)

\$,			.
----	--	---	--	--	---

7. PROVISIONS COSTS (i.e. groceries, bottled water, cigarettes, etc. for this trip)

\$,			.
----	--	---	--	--	---

Don't forget to fill the backside!

Observer Program Economic Trip Cost Form

“Why do we collect economic data?”...“Because the National Marine Fisheries Services is required to conduct economic analysis.”

benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through “direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations”. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be “information” subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to trip expenditures questions is estimated to average 10 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 665.28, Conditions for At-sea observer coverage for all other questions, excluding the economic questions. Providing the requested economic information is voluntary. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx
Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

Highly Migratory Species Observer Notification Form

This form is provided for your response. Please provide the information requested below and at least 5 days prior to your estimated departure. The mailing address and FAX number you should use are on the back of this form. If the vessel is not fishing or is involved in another fishery during the selection period, please indicate this under Vessel Fishing Status.

Captain's Name: _____ Vessel Name: _____

Documentation/Vessel Number: _____ Overall Length: _____ (ft)

Crew Size: _____ (include skipper) Bunk Capacity: _____ Life Raft Capacity: _____

Contact Person/Telephone Number(s): _____

Communication Equipment (please check)	Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal
Cellular phone:	Serial Number:
VHF:	Date of issuance:
Single Side Band:	_____/_____ Month Year
Call sign:	

Vessel Fishing Status:

Port of Departure:

Dock Facility: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Telephone Number: () _____ Departure Date: _____ Departure Time: _____ (AM or PM)

Expected Landing Port:

Dock Facility: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Telephone Number: () _____

Anticipated Landing Date: _____

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information given on this form is true and correct, and that I have full authority to execute this form.

Signature

Date

For the Pelagic Observer Program, please return by mail to SEFSC Pelagic Observer Program, 75 Virginia Beach Dr. Miami, FL 33149 or fax to 305-361-4282. For questions, call 800-858-0624.

For the Shark Observer Program, please return by mail to SEFSC Shark Bottom Longline Observer Program, 3500 Delwood Beach Rd, Panama City, FL 32408-7403 or fax to (850) 235-3559. For questions, call (850) 234-6541.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure that observers can be deployed effectively, efficiently, and safely on fishing vessels in order to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 2 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, National Observer Program, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 622.8, 50 C.F.R. 229.7, and 50 C.F.R. 222.401 for the other questions. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. This is an approved information collection under OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx through xx/xx/2012.

Observer Evaluation

The SEFSC Miami Laboratory recently placed an observer aboard your vessel for observer coverage. In an attempt to monitor the quality of observers we send on commercial vessels, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to fill out this questionnaire. We wish to insure that the observers conduct themselves professionally, are safe, and get along with the crew during a voyage. Please fill in the information below and return to: **Shark Fishery Observer Program, 3500 Delwood Beach Rd, Panama City, FL 32408-7403**. Your information is important to us in order to run a better observer program. If you are the owner and were not present during the trip, please consult with your captain.

Observer name: _____ **Vessel assigned:** _____

Dates of trip: _____

Please provide yes or no responses. You can provide more detailed comments about the observer on the back if you wish.

1. Did the observer delay your departure time? _____
2. Was the observer's conduct while aboard your vessel professional? _____
3. Was the observer easy to work with? _____
4. Did you notice any problems between the observer and the crew? _____
5. Did the observer get his work done in a timely manner as to not impact your normal operations significantly?

6. Did you and the observer discuss vessel safety procedures? _____
7. Was the observer seen doing anything that seemed unsafe? _____
8. Did the observer seem to experience seasickness? _____
9. Did the observer help keep clean the galley area _____; bunk area _____;
Help with dishes _____?

TRIP NUMBER	OBSERVER NAME	VESSEL NAME
INVOICE CODE	TASK NUMBER	DATES OF TRIP
MEAL EXPENSES	RATE DAYS AT SEA \$25/DAY X	SUBTOTAL
CORPORATION / OWNER NAME	TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number)	
MAILING ADDRESS	PHONE	
DATE	SIGNATURE	

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used to reimburse you for specific expenses during the observed trip identified on the form. That trip was observed in order to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, National Observer Program, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is required to have the Central Administrative Support Center (CASC) and United States Treasury process and pay the reimbursement. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
3500 Delwood Beach Rd
Panama City, FL 32408

OWNER NAME
VESSEL NAME
OWNER ADDRESS

DATE

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that your vessel, **VESSEL NAME, VESSEL ID**, has been selected to carry an observer between **March 15 and May 31, 2009** if fishing using bottom longline gear pursuant to 50 CFR Part 635.7 (c). Upon receipt of this letter, you are required to contact the observer coordinator to make arrangements to carry an observer. Please provide the following information: 1) Departure information (port, dock, expected fishing dates); and 2) Date of issuance (month and year) of Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal.

Please understand that you are required upon receipt of this letter to contact the observer program regardless of target or whether you intend to fish:

Lori Hale, Observer Coordinator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
3500 Delwood Beach Rd
Panama City, FL 32408-7403
Phone: (850) 234-6541 ext. 250
Fax: (850) 235-3559

or

Simon Gulak, Assistant Coordinator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
3500 Delwood Beach Rd
Panama City, FL 32408-7403
Phone: (850) 234-6541 ext. 236
Fax: (850) 235-3559

As the owner or operator of a vessel that is selected for observer coverage, under 50 CFR Part 635.7 (c), you must notify the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) **before commencing any fishing trip, regardless of the species you are targeting, at least 48 hours prior to each trip.**

Vessels are selected randomly from a pool of vessels that (1) have a current directed shark permit, (2) reported fishing with bottom longline gear in 2007 or 2008, and (3) have not been selected concurrently for each of the past three fishing trimester seasons.

Please note that vessels that have been excused from participating by the observer coordinator in previous years or seasons are **not automatically excused** from participating in the coming season.

All selected vessels must contact the observer coordinator.

Once a NMFS-certified observer is placed aboard your vessel, you are required to:

1. Provide the observer with accommodations and food equivalent to that provided to the crew (you will be reimbursed for reasonable food costs);
2. Allow the observer access to and use of the vessel's communication equipment and personnel for transmitting and receiving messages related to the observer's duties;
3. Allow the observer access to and use of the vessel's navigation equipment, charts, and crew to determine the vessel's position;
4. As provided by 50 CFR 229.7 (b), allow the observer free and unobstructed access to all fish, marine mammals, and sea turtles aboard the vessel for purposes of collecting measurements, weights, and biological samples. This will also include access to the vessel's bridge, working decks, holding bins, weight scales, holds, and any other space used to hold, process, weigh, or store fish;
5. Allow the observer to inspect and copy the vessel's log, communications logs, and any records associated with the catch and distribution of fish for that trip; and,
6. Display a current Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination decal. If you do not have a safety decal, you must obtain one before you go fishing with an observer on board. **Failure to obtain a safety decal is not justification for fishing without an observer, and may result in enforcement action.** A list of phone numbers for approved Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiners is included at the end of this letter. The safety decal must clearly state the number of people that will be onboard, including the observer and the areas and waters in which the vessel will be fishing. All safety equipment must be up to date including the EPIRB battery, life raft, and flares. Life raft capacity must be large enough for all persons on board, including all crew plus the observer.

Your cooperation with the above requirements is appreciated. We will make every effort to minimize any disruption of the normal activities of your vessel and crew. The observer is onboard to collect data only; for safety and liability reasons, the observer will not take part in any fishing operations.

Thank you for your cooperation, without which collection of this critical information would not be possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Henwood".

Terry Henwood, Ph.D.
Acting Director, Panama City Laboratory

Enclosure

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 40 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 622.8, 50 C.F.R. 229.7, and 50 C.F.R. 222.401 for the other questions. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control No. 0648-xxxx

Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

Highly Migratory Species Observer Notification Form

This form is provided for your response. Please provide the information requested below and at least 5 days prior to your estimated departure. The mailing address and FAX number you should use are on the back of this form. If the vessel is not fishing or is involved in another fishery during the selection period, please indicate this under Vessel Fishing Status.

Captain's Name: _____ Vessel Name: _____

Documentation/Vessel Number: _____ Overall Length: _____ (ft)

Crew Size: _____ (include skipper) Bunk Capacity: _____ Life Raft Capacity: _____

Contact Person/Telephone Number(s): _____

Communication Equipment (please check)	Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal
Cellular phone:	Serial Number:
VHF:	Date of issuance:
Single Side Band:	_____/_____ Month Year
Call sign:	

Vessel Fishing Status:

Port of Departure:

Dock Facility: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Telephone Number: () _____ Departure Date: _____ Departure Time: _____ (AM or PM)

Expected Landing Port:

Dock Facility: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Telephone Number: () _____

Anticipated Landing Date: _____

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information given on this form is true and correct, and that I have full authority to execute this form.

Signature

Date

For the Pelagic Observer Program, please return by mail to SEFSC Pelagic Observer Program, 75 Virginia Beach Dr. Miami, FL 33149 or fax to 305-361-4282. For questions, call 800-858-0624.

For the Shark Observer Program, please return by mail to SEFSC Shark Bottom Longline Observer Program, 3500 Delwood Beach Rd, Panama City, FL 32408-7403 or fax to (850) 235-3559. For questions, call (850) 234-6541.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure that observers can be deployed effectively, efficiently, and safely on fishing vessels in order to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 2 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, National Observer Program, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 622.8, 50 C.F.R. 229.7, and 50 C.F.R. 222.401 for the other questions. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Observer Evaluation

The SEFSC Miami Laboratory recently placed an observer aboard your vessel for observer coverage. In an attempt to monitor the quality of observers we send on commercial vessels, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to fill out this questionnaire. We wish to insure that the observers conduct themselves professionally, are safe, and get along with the crew during a voyage. Please fill in the information below and return to: **Pelagic Observer Program, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149**. Your information is important to us in order to run a better observer program. If you are the owner and were not present during the trip, please consult with your captain.

Observer name: _____ **Vessel assigned:** _____

Dates of trip: _____

Please provide yes or no responses. You can provide more detailed comments about the observer on the back if you wish.

1. Did the observer delay your departure time? _____
2. Was the observer's conduct while aboard your vessel professional? _____
3. Was the observer easy to work with? _____
4. Did you notice any problems between the observer and the crew? _____
5. Did the observer get his work done in a timely manner as to not impact your normal operations significantly?

6. Did you and the observer discuss vessel safety procedures? _____
7. Was the observer seen doing anything that seemed unsafe? _____
8. Did the observer seem to experience seasickness? _____
9. Did the observer help keep clean the galley area _____; bunk area _____;
Help with dishes _____?

Southeast Fisheries Center
Miami Laboratory
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

{Date mailed}

F/V {Name of vessel}

Dear Permit Holder:

In accordance with the federal Atlantic Highly Migratory Species regulations, 50 CFR 635.7, your vessel {Documentation number of vessel} has been selected for observer coverage. The regulation requires that you contact the Southeast Fisheries Science Center's Miami Laboratory, in writing, at least five business days in advance of each trip your vessel makes within the period {Date range of selection}. Failure to call the Observer Program in advance of each departure could result in enforcement action. Based on past logbook reports the Observer Program expects a minimum coverage of {number of sets} set(s) while the observer is assigned to your vessel. The observer will remain in the area to complete the required sets at the discretion of the Program Coordinators. You must report the following:

- (1) Departure information (port, dock, date, and time); and
- (2) Expected landing information (port, dock, and date).

Please provide this information to:

Larry Beerkircher
Observer Program Coordinator
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

FAX (305) 361-4282
PHONE 1-800-858-0624

You may report this information by facsimile (FAX). For any notification received outside federal business hours (8:00 am - 4:30 PM Monday through Friday), the five-day notification period will not start until 8:00 am of the next federal working day.

Once a NMFS certified observer is placed on board your vessel, you no longer need to provide the above information unless you receive a subsequent notice of vessel selection for a period different than specified above.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 50 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. Part 622.8, 50 C.F.R. 229.7, and 50 C.F.R. 222.401 for the other questions. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

REIMBURSEMENT INVOICE FOR CONTRACT OBSERVERS			TRIP NUMBER
VESSEL NAME	ORGANIZATION CODE	TASK NUMBER	DATES OF TRIP
			TO
MEAL EXPENSES	RATE	DAYS AT SEA	SUBTOTAL
	\$25 / DAY	X	
Crew Sampling Assistance	RATE	DAYS AT SEA	
	\$200 / BLUEFIN TUNA	X	
CORPORATION / OWNER NAME	TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number)		TOTAL
MAILING ADDRESS	PHONE		
DATE	SIGNATURE		

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used to reimburse you for specific expenses during the observed trip identified on the form. That trip was observed in order to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, National Observer Program, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is required to have the Central Administrative Support Center (CASC) and United States Treasury process and pay the reimbursement. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

REIMBURSEMENT INVOICE FOR CONTRACT OBSERVERS			TRIP NUMBER
VESSEL NAME	ORGANIZATION CODE	TASK NUMBER	DATES OF TRIP
			TO
MEAL EXPENSES	RATE	DAYS AT SEA	SUBTOTAL
	\$25 / DAY X		
EQUIPMENT EXPENSES	RATE	DAYS AT SEA	
Company Name			
Agent Name			
Phone			
CORPORATION / OWNER NAME		TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number)	TOTAL
MAILING ADDRESS		PHONE	
DATE			SIGNATURE

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used to reimburse you for specific expenses during the observed trip identified on the form. That trip was observed in order to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, National Observer Program, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is required to have the Central Administrative Support Center (CASC) and United States Treasury process and pay the reimbursement. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

REIMBURSEMENT INVOICE FOR CONTRACT OBSERVERS			TRIP NUMBER
VESSEL NAME	ORGANIZATION CODE	TASK NUMBER	DATES OF TRIP
			TO
MEAL EXPENSES	RATE	DAYS AT SEA	SUBTOTAL
	\$25 / DAY X		
LIABILITY INSURANCE *ATTACH ENDORSEMENT AND BILLING STATEMENT	RATE	DAYS AT SEA	
COMPANY NAME			
AGENT NAME			
PHONE			
CORPORATION / OWNER NAME	TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number)		TOTAL
MAILING ADDRESS	PHONE		
DATE	SIGNATURE		

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used to reimburse you for specific expenses during the observed trip identified on the form. That trip was observed in order to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, F/SF1, National Observer Program, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Providing the requested information is required to have the Central Administrative Support Center (CASC) and United States Treasury process and pay the reimbursement. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

TRIP DATA RELEASE FORM

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used to ensure that the data for a specific trip is not provided to a person who does not have authority to obtain that data under the confidentiality requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Meeting those confidentiality requirements is critical for collecting information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the MSA, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the MMPA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 2 minutes per response, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: Amy Van Atten, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Northeast Fisheries Observer Program, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543-2266. Providing the requested information is required to deliver the copy of the trip to the requested location and to release the trip data. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. This is an approved information collection under OMB Control No. 0648-xxx through xx/xx/2012.

POLICY FOR DATA REQUESTS OF NMFS OBSERVER-OBTAINED INFORMATION

- 1) The only individuals who may request and receive data include: the owner(s), or the captain acting as an authorized representative for the owner(s), or a vessel participating in the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Observer Program. No other individuals may be issued any data under this policy.
- 2) Any data request must be submitted in writing on a form letter which may be obtained from a NMFS Observer, or the address below. Two signatures are required on this letter: that of the individual requesting the data, and that of the individual releasing the data. All letters must then be returned to the following address:

Chief, Fisheries Sampling Branch
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center
166 Water Street
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1097

Any questions or other requests relating to data release should also be directed to the above address.

- 3) It should be understood that upon release of the requested data, the recipient then becomes responsible for it.
- 4) The individual signing the letter as the “releasor” must issue the information in compliance with this policy.

- 5) Data may not be released upon an oral request, or without first completing and signing the authorized release letter mentioned above.
- 6) Field diaries do not meet the specifications of releasable data under the policy. No field diaries may be copied for, or reviewed by, vessel owners or captains.
- 7) Release of data for trips in which more than 1 vessel participated (i.e. pair trawl trips) may only occur if both vessel owners or captains complete and sign data release letters.
- 8) Any requests for historical data (i.e. data that an observer has already mailed in) should be forwarded to the address above.
- 9) All letters should be completed in pen, not pencil.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Northeast Fisheries Science Center
 166 Water Street
 Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

OMB Control No.: 0648-xxxx
 Expiration Date: xx/xx/2012

Northeast Fisheries Observer Program Confidentiality Waiver Form

I, _____, owner or authorized representative of the

Fishing vessel, _____, CG Documentation # _____,

submit this form under Section 402(b) (1) (F) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1881a(b) (1) (F), to authorize the release of observer information collected for fishery conservation and management purposes aboard the aforementioned vessel to:

Observer Data Waiver Period:

Comments:

 Owner/Authorized Representative Signature

 Date Signed

Please return to:

Amy Van Atten, Branch Chief
 Fisheries Sampling Branch
 NOAA Fisheries
 166 Water Street
 Woods Hole, MA 02543

Observer Evaluation

The SEFSC Galveston Laboratory will be placing an observer aboard your vessel for observer coverage. In an attempt to monitor the quality of observers we send on commercial vessels, we would appreciate it if once the trip is completed you would take the time to fill out this questionnaire. We wish to ensure that the observers conduct themselves professionally and safely during deployment. Please fill in the information below and return to: **NOAA/NMFS, Reef and Shrimp Observer Program, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, Texas 77551**. Your information is important in helping us improve the observer program. If you are the owner and were not present during the trip, please consult with your captain.

Vessel name: _____ **Vessel Doc. #:** _____

Your name: _____ **Observer name:** _____

Your status (check one): **Owner** _____ **Captain** _____ **Other** _____

Please provide responses by checking yes or no in the space provided. Space has been provided on the back of the form if you wish to include detailed comments about the observer.

1. Was the observer on time and prepared for the trip?

Yes ___ No ___

2. Did you and the observer discuss vessel safety procedures prior to departure?

Yes ___ No ___

3. Did the observer explain their sampling requirements and duties prior to departure?

Yes ___ No ___

4. Was the observer professional, courteous and polite?

Yes ___ No ___

5. Did the observer appear to conduct the duties they were responsible for during the trip?

Yes ___ No ___

6. Was sampling conducted in a timely manner as to not substantially impact your normal operations?

Yes ___ No ___

7. Did observer help maintain cleanliness standards in accordance with the vessels normal policy in the following areas?

Work (Yes ___ No ___); **Bunk** (Yes ___ No ___); **Galley** (Yes ___ No ___)

If you have any other concerns regarding, safety, the observer, or observer procedures during the trip please explain in the additional comment section provided on the back of form.

Additional comments:

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to improve observer training under section 403(b) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1801, et seq.), which will assist NMFS to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 15 minutes, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Shrimp and Reef Fish Observer Programs, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, Texas 77551. Providing the requested information is voluntary. All identifying data submitted will be handled as confidential material in accordance with NOAA Administrative Order 216-100, Protection of Confidential Fishery Statistics. Other information collected on this form may be subject to public release under various statutes. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

SAFETY CHECKOFF FORM

Observer Name _____ Trip Number _____
 Vessel Name _____ Vessel Number _____

Safety Check list (Offshore 20+ Miles)

USCG Safety Exam Decal # _____ Date issued: _____ Distance Rating: _____

Life Saving Equipment

Life Raft? _____ Type _____ Inspection Date: _____ Capacity? _____

Life Raft Hydrostatic Release Expiration Date: _____ Total # of People Onboard: _____
(This number is including the Observer)

EPIRB Location: _____ EPIRB Battery Expiration Date: _____

EPIRB Hydrostatic Release Expiration Date: _____

Personal Flotation Device for each person on board (POB)? _____ Location(s): _____

Immersion Suit for each POB? _____ (only required above 32°00 N latitude)

Orange Ring Buoy(s) with Line attached? _____ Location(s): _____

Distress Flares? _____ Location(s): _____

Expiration Date for each distress flare.

Parachute _____	Smoke _____	Hand _____	Hand _____
Parachute _____	Smoke _____	Hand _____	Hand _____
Parachute _____	Smoke _____	Hand _____	Hand _____

Fire Fighting Equipment

Fire Extinguishers Charged? _____

Location 1: _____ Location 3: _____

Location 2: _____ Location 4: _____

Communication Equipment

Vessel Call Letters: _____

Single Side Band _____ Satellite Phone # (if applicable) _____

VHF _____ Vessel Cell Phone # (if applicable) _____

Other First Aid Kit? _____ Location(s): _____

Ditch Bag? _____ Location(s): _____

Detailed Description of Vessel and Comments: _____

SAFETY CHECK OFF FORM

STATION BILL

Trip # _____

	Person Overboard Signal:	Fire Signal:	Flooding Signal:	Abandon Ship Signal:
Position	Station/Bring/Duty	Station/Bring/Duty	Station/Bring/Duty	Station/Bring/Duty
Captain				
Crew				
Crew				
Crew				
Observer				
Date performed				

Vessel Safety Orientation (check all performed)

Vessel Layout:

- Engine on/off, steering, gear selection, etc. _____
- Shut off and crossover valves. _____
- Alarms: what they are, what they mean, reporting inoperative alarms. _____
- Entrapment: exit routes. _____
- Hazards: hatches, winches, machinery, lines, slippery areas, stability concerns, etc. _____

Emergency Assignments (not on the Station Bill): Each Crew Member's Specific Duties In

- Launching survival craft and recovering life boats and rescue boats. _____
- Donning immersion suits and wearable PFDs. _____
- Making a voice radio distress call. _____
- Using visual distress signals. _____
- Activating the general alarm. _____

Pre-Trip Safety Skill(s)

At least once per month and before each new departure, one safety skill/assignment must be performed and logged. In the space below list the skill (s) performed and/or include safety assignment, then sign and date at the bottom.

Observer Signature and Date: _____

Captain Signature and Date: _____

Reef Fish - Observer FAX Notification Form

This form is provided for your response. Please complete and return this form at least 48 hours prior to your estimated departure. Fax to (409-766-3489) **ATTN: MIKE HARRELSON and/or PAT CRYER.** If the vessel is not fishing or is involved in another fishery during the selection period, please state in the comment section of this form which fishery and the gear to be used.

Captain's Name: _____ Vessel Name: _____

Documentation/Vessel Number: _____ Overall Length: _____ (ft) Crew Size: _____ (include skipper)

Bunk Capacity: _____ Life Raft Capacity: _____ Contact Person/Telephone Number(s): _____

Communication Equipment (please list)	Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal
Cellular / SAT phone:	Serial Number:
VHF:	Date Issued
Single Side Band:	_____/_____ Month Year
Call sign:	

Port of Departure: Dock Facility: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Phone Number: () _____-

Departure Date: __/__/__ Time: __:__(AM or PM) Anticipated Landing Date: __/__/__

Expected Landing Port: (if different from port of departure) Dock Facility: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Phone Number: () _____- _____ Primary Language: (if other than English) _____

Comments: _____

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure that observers can be deployed effectively, efficiently, and safely on fishing vessels in order to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 15 minutes, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Shrimp and Reef Fish Observer Programs, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, Texas 77551. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. 222.401, 50 C.F.R. 229.7, and 50 C.F.R. 622.8 for all other questions. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Shrimp - Observer FAX Notification Form

This form is provided for your response. Please complete and return this form at least 48 hours prior to your estimated departure. Fax to (409-766-3489) **ATTN: MIKE HARRELSON and/or PAT CRYER.** If the vessel is not fishing or is involved in another fishery during the selection period, please state in the comment section of this form which fishery and the gear to be used.

Captain's Name: _____ Vessel Name: _____

Documentation/Vessel Number: _____ Overall Length: _____ (ft) Crew Size: _____ (include skipper)

Bunk Capacity: _____ Life Raft Capacity: _____ Contact Person/Telephone Number(s): _____

Communication Equipment (please list)	Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination Decal
Cellular / SAT phone:	Serial Number:
VHF:	Date Issued
Single Side Band:	_____/_____ Month Year
Call sign:	

Port of Departure: Dock Facility: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Phone Number: () _____-

Departure Date: __/__/__ Time: __:__(AM or PM) Anticipated Landing Date: __/__/__

Expected Landing Port: (if different from port of departure) Dock Facility: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Phone Number: () _____- _____ Primary Language: (if other than English) _____

Comments: _____

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: The information provided on this form will be used by the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure that observers can be deployed effectively, efficiently, and safely on fishing vessels in order to collect information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. The public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 15 minutes, including the time for completing, reviewing, and transmitting the information on the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Shrimp and Reef Fish Observer Programs, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, Texas 77551. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. 222.401, 50 C.F.R. 229.7, and 50 C.F.R. 622.8 for all other questions. The information on this form will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

June 2009



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

Date: February 9, 2009

Vessel Owner
Street Address
City, State Zip

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that your vessel, Vessel Name, Doc#, has been selected to carry an observer for the April through June 2009 Commercial Reef Fish season pursuant to MSFCMA § 303(b)(8). Upon receipt of this letter, you are required to contact the observer coordinator within 24 hours to make arrangements to carry an observer. **Even if you are not planning to fish this season, or sold your vessel, you are still required to contact the observer coordinator.**

Primary Contacts:

Mike Harrelson, Observer Coordinator
Voice: (409) 766-3525
Pat Cryer, Observer Coordinator
Voice: (409) 766-3525
National Marine Fisheries Service
Galveston Laboratory
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, TX 77551
FAX: (409) 766-3489

Secondary Contact:

Elizabeth Scott-Denton, Program Manager
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Galveston Laboratory
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, TX 77551
Voice: (409) 766-3571
FAX: (409) 766-3508

After the initial contact with an observer coordinator, as the owner or operator of a vessel that is selected for observer coverage, under MSFCMA § 303(b)(8), you must notify the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) **before commencing any fishing trip that may result in the incidental catch or harvest of any reef fish, regardless of the species you are targeting.** You are required to notify the observer coordinator by fax (attached form) or phone at least **48** hours prior to **each** fishing trip.

Vessels are selected randomly from a pool of vessels that (1) have a current directed reef fish permit, (2) historically reported fishing for reef fish with electric reel, handline, and/or longline gear, and (3) have not been selected consecutively for this program for each of the past three quarters.

Please note that vessels that have been excused from participating in previous years or seasons are **not automatically excused** from participating in the coming season. **All selected vessels must contact the observer coordinator.**

Once a NMFS-certified observer is placed aboard your vessel, you are required to:

1. Provide the observer with accommodations and food equivalent to that provided to the crew (you will be reimbursed for reasonable food costs);
2. Allow the observer access to and use of the vessel's communication equipment and personnel for transmitting and receiving messages related to the observer's duties;
3. Allow the observer access to and use of the vessel's navigation equipment, charts, and crew to determine the vessel's position;
4. As provided by 50 C.F.R. 229.7(b), allow the observer free and unobstructed access to all fish, marine mammals, and sea turtles aboard the vessel for purposes of collecting measurements, weights, and biological samples. This will also include access to the vessel's bridge, working decks, holding bins, weight scales, holds, and any other space used to hold, process, weigh, or store fish;
5. Allow the observer to inspect and copy the vessel's log, communications logs, and any records associated with the catch and distribution of fish for that trip; and
6. Have or obtain a Commercial Fishing Vessel Examination decal prior to the selection period. **Failure to obtain a safety decal is not justification for fishing without an observer, and may result in enforcement action.** A list of phone numbers for approved Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiners is included at the end of this letter. The safety decal must clearly state the number of people that will be onboard, including the observer and the areas and waters in which the vessel will be fishing. All safety equipment must be up to date including the EPIRB battery, life raft, and flares. Life raft capacity must be large enough for all persons on board, including all crew plus the observer.

Your cooperation with the above requirements is appreciated. We will make every effort to minimize any disruption of the normal activities of your vessel and crew. The observer is onboard to collect data only; for safety and liability reasons, the observer will not take part in any fishing operations.

Thank you for your cooperation, without which collection of this critical information would not be possible.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D.
Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Enclosures

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 65 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Shrimp and Reef Fish Observer Programs, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, Texas 77551. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. 222.401, 50 C.F.R. 229.7, and 50 C.F.R. 622.8 for all other questions. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL EXAMINERS

EIGHTH DISTRICT MARINE SAFETY OFFICE		
Mr. Mark Jones	MSO Port Arthur, TX	800-422-3762
Mr. Gilberto Gallardo	MSO Galveston, TX	409-789-2711 / 800-378-2097
Mr. Juan Garza	MSO Corpus Christi, TX	800-434-9486 x 314
Mr. David Johnson	MSO New Orleans, LA	800-891-1197
Mr. Bill Evert	MSO Morgan City, LA	800-884-8724
Mr. Scott La Bak	MSO Mobile, AL	800-880-3193
SEVENTH DISTRICT MARINE SAFETY OFFICE		
CPO Angle Rodriquez	MSO San Juan, PR	787-706-2421
Mr. Rafael Arizmendi	MSO Miami and Key West, FL	305-535-8734
Mr. Rob Buckles	MSO Tampa, FL	813-228-2196 x 8136
Mr. Ed Weiss	MSO Jacksonville, FL	904-564-7664
Mr. Scott Way	MSO Savannah, GA	912-652-4353 x 215
Mr. Greg Johnson	MSO Charleston, SC	843-720-3267
FIFTH DISTRICT MARINE SAFETY OFFICE		
Mr. Robert Garrott	MSO Portsmouth, VA	757-398-6554
Mr. Steve Oakley	ACT Baltimore, MD	410-576-2634
Mr. Red Gilbert	MSO Hampton Roads, VA	757-668-5535
Mr. Robert Garrott	MSO Philadelphia, PA	757-398-6554
Mr. Barry Everhart	MSO Moorhead, NC	252-247-4526
FIRST DISTRICT MARINE SAFETY OFFICE		
Mr. Gary Moores	MSO Bucksport Maine	207-469-2394
Mr. Arn Heggens	MSO Portland Maine	207-780-3256
Mr. John Buckley	MSO Boston (MA and part of NH)	617-223-3045
Mr. Kevin Coyle	MSO Providence (Cape Cod to RI)	508-999-0072
Ms. Kyra Dwyer & Petty Officer Roger Mumford	MSO Long Island Sound (CT and Long Island NY);	203-468-4437
Petty Officer Mike Wireman	ACT New York	718-354-3168

June 2009



United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
75 Virginia Beach Drive
Miami, FL 33149

Date: March 4, 2009

Vessel Owner
Street Address
City, State Zip

Dear Permit Holder:

This letter is to inform you that your vessel, Vessel Name, Doc#, has been selected to carry an observer for the May through August 2009 commercial shrimp season pursuant to MSFCMA § 303(b)(8). Once you have completed a minimum of 18 sea days you are no longer required to carry an observer during the May through August 2009 selection period.

Upon receipt of this letter, you are required to contact the observer coordinator within 24 hours to make arrangements to carry an observer. **Even if you are not planning to shrimp this season, or have sold your vessel, you are still required to contact the observer coordinator.**

Primary Contacts:

Mike Harrelson, Observer Coordinator
Voice: (409) 766-3525
Pat Cryer, Observer Coordinator
Voice: (409) 766-3525
National Marine Fisheries Service
Galveston Laboratory
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, TX 77551
FAX: (409) 766-3489

Secondary Contact:

Elizabeth Scott-Denton, Program Manager
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Galveston Laboratory
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, TX 77551
Voice: (409) 766-3571
FAX: (409) 766-3508

After the initial contact with an observer coordinator, as the owner or operator of a vessel that is selected for observer coverage, under MSFCMA § 303(b)(8), you must notify the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) **before commencing any fishing trip that may result in the harvest of any shrimp species.** You are required to notify the observer coordinator by fax (attached form) or phone at least **48** hours prior to **each** fishing trip.

Vessels are selected randomly from a pool of vessels that (1) have a current federal shrimp permit, and (2) historically reported shrimp catch in a particular area, depth and season.

Please note that vessels that have, or will be, participating in bycatch reduction device (BRD) development and research are not exempted from mandatory shrimp coverage. **All selected vessels must contact the observer coordinator.**

Once a NMFS-certified observer is placed aboard your vessel, you are required to:

1. Provide the observer with accommodations and food equivalent to that provided to the crew (you will be reimbursed for reasonable food costs);
2. Allow the observer access to and use of the vessel's communication equipment and personnel for transmitting and receiving messages related to the observer's duties;
3. Allow the observer access to and use of the vessel's navigation equipment, charts, and crew to determine the vessel's position;
4. As provided by 50 C.F.R. 229.7(b), allow the observer free and unobstructed access to all fish, marine mammals, and sea turtles aboard the vessel for purposes of collecting measurements, weights, and biological samples. This will also include access to the vessel's bridge, working decks, holding bins, weight scales, holds, and any other space used to hold, process, weigh, or store fish;
5. Allow the observer to inspect and copy the vessel's log, communications logs, and any records associated with the catch and distribution of fish for that trip; and
6. Have or obtain a Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Examination decal prior to the selection period. **Failure to obtain a safety decal is not justification for fishing without an observer, and may result in enforcement action.** A list of phone numbers for approved Commercial Fishing Vessel Examiners is included at the end of this letter. The safety decal must clearly state the number of people that will be onboard, including the observer and the areas and waters in which the vessel will be fishing. All safety equipment must be up to date including the EPIRB battery, life raft, and flares. Life raft capacity must be large enough for all persons on board, including all crew plus the observer.

Your cooperation with the above requirements is appreciated. We will make every effort to minimize any disruption of the normal activities of your vessel and crew. The observer is onboard to collect data only; for safety and liability reasons, the observer will not take part in any fishing operations.

Thank you for your cooperation, without which collection of this critical information would not be possible.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Ponwith, Ph.D.
Director, Southeast Fisheries Science Center

Enclosures

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT: Information collected through the observer program will be used to: (1) monitor catch and bycatch; (2) understand the population status and trends of fish stocks and protected species, as well as the interactions between them; (3) determine the quantity and distribution of net benefits derived from living marine resources; (4) predict the biological, ecological, and economic impacts of existing management actions and proposed management options; and (5) ensure that the observer programs can safely and efficiently collect the information required for the previous four uses. In particular, the observer program provides information that is used in analyses that support the conservation and management of living marine resources and that are required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), Executive Order 12866 (EO 12866), and other applicable law. Most of the information collected by observers is obtained through "direct observation by an employee or agent of the sponsoring agency or through non-standardized oral communication in connection with such direct observations". Under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) regulations at 5 C.F.R. 1320.3(h)(3), facts or opinions obtained through such observations and communications are not considered to be "information" subject to the PRA. The public reporting burden for responding to the questions that observers ask and that are subject to the PRA is estimated to average 65 minutes per trip, including the time for hearing and understanding the questions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: National Marine Fisheries Service, Shrimp and Reef Fish Observer Programs, 4700 Avenue U, Galveston, Texas 77551. Providing the requested information is mandatory under regulations at 50 C.F.R. 600.746 for the safety questions and at 50 C.F.R. 222.401, 50 C.F.R. 229.7, and 50 C.F.R. 622.8 for all other questions. All information collected by observers will be kept confidential as required under Section 402(b) of the MSA (18 U.S.C. 1881a(b)) and regulations at 50 C.F.R. Part 600, Subpart E. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL EXAMINERS

EIGHTH DISTRICT MARINE SAFETY OFFICE		
Mr. Mark Jones	MSO Port Arthur, TX	800-422-3762
Mr. Gilberto Gallardo	MSO Galveston, TX	409-789-2711 / 800-378-2097
Mr. Juan Garza	MSO Corpus Christi, TX	800-434-9486 x 314
Mr. David Johnson	MSO New Orleans, LA	800-891-1197
Mr. Bill Evert	MSO Morgan City, LA	800-884-8724
Mr. Scott La Bak	MSO Mobile, AL	800-880-3193
SEVENTH DISTRICT MARINE SAFETY OFFICE		
CPO Angle Rodriquez	MSO San Juan, PR	787-706-2421
Mr. Rafael Arizmendi	MSO Miami and Key West, FL	305-535-8734
Mr. Rob Buckles	MSO Tampa, FL	813-228-2196 x 8136
Mr. Ed Weiss	MSO Jacksonville, FL	904-564-7664
Mr. Scott Way	MSO Savannah, GA	912-652-4353 x 215
Mr. Greg Johnson	MSO Charleston, SC	843-720-3267
FIFTH DISTRICT MARINE SAFETY OFFICE		
Mr. Robert Garrott	MSO Portsmouth, VA	757-398-6554
Mr. Steve Oakley	ACT Baltimore, MD	410-576-2634
Mr. Red Gilbert	MSO Hampton Roads, VA	757-668-5535
Mr. Robert Garrott	MSO Philadelphia, PA	757-398-6554
Mr. Barry Everhart	MSO Moorhead, NC	252-247-4526
FIRST DISTRICT MARINE SAFETY OFFICE		
Mr. Gary Moores	MSO Bucksport Maine	207-469-2394
Mr. Arn Heggens	MSO Portland Maine	207-780-3256
Mr. John Buckley	MSO Boston (MA and part of NH)	617-223-3045
Mr. Kevin Coyle	MSO Providence (Cape Cod to RI)	508-999-0072
Ms. Kyra Dwyer & Petty Officer Roger Mumford	MSO Long Island Sound (CT and Long Island NY);	203-468-4437
Petty Officer Mike Wireman	ACT New York	718-354-3168

Observer Program Economic Trip Cost Form

"Why do we collect economic data?"... "Because the National Marine Fisheries Services is required to conduct economic analysis."

(LJ 07-17-08) DRIFT GILLNET TRIP EXPENDITURE FORM

(Ask information on the way to port and after offloading)

1. TRIP INFORMATION

VESSEL NAME _____

COAST GUARD DOCUMENT NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

STATE REGISTRATION PLATE NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TRIP TYPE (Check One)

SWORDFISH

THRESHER SHARK

TRIP NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

DATE OF DEPARTURE

--	--

DAY

--	--

MONTH

2	0		
---	---	--	--

YEAR

TIME OF DEPARTURE

		:		
--	--	---	--	--

HOUR

MINUTES

DATE OF RETURN

--	--

DAY

--	--

MONTH

2	0		
---	---	--	--

YEAR

TIME OF RETURN

		:		
--	--	---	--	--

HOUR

MINUTES

DAYS FISHED

--	--

FISH TICKET NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

DATE OF OFFLOADING

--	--

DAY

--	--

MONTH

2	0		
---	---	--	--

YEAR

FISH TICKET NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

DATE OF OFFLOADING

--	--

DAY

--	--

MONTH

2	0		
---	---	--	--

YEAR

FISH TICKET NUMBER

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

DATE OF OFFLOADING

--	--

DAY

--	--

MONTH

2	0		
---	---	--	--

YEAR

2. FUEL

PRICE PER GALLON

\$

	.		
--	---	--	--

GALLONS USED

		,			
--	--	---	--	--	--

TOTAL COST OF FUEL

\$

		,				.		
--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--

3. ENGINE OIL

UNIT (Check One)

<input type="checkbox"/>	1 GALLON
<input type="checkbox"/>	5 GALLONS (1 BAG/BUCKET)
<input type="checkbox"/>	55 GALLONS (1 DRUM)

PRICE PER UNIT

\$

		.		
--	--	---	--	--

QUANTITY PER UNIT USED

GALLONS
BAGS
DRUMS

TOTAL COST OF OIL

\$

		.		
--	--	---	--	--

Observer Program Economic Trip Cost Form

"Why do we collect economic data?"... "Because the National Marine Fisheries Services is required to conduct economic analysis."

9. PROVISIONS COSTS (i.e. groceries, bottled water, etc. for this trip)

\$ [][] , [][] [][] [][] [][] [][] [][]

10. TOTAL SHARED COSTS (i.e. cost subtracted from gross revenue prior to calculating crew share payments for this trip)

\$ [][] , [][] [][] [][] [][] [][] [][]

11. OTHER TRIP COSTS (i.e. docking/offloading fees if separate from broker fee, crew travel/lodging, etc. for this trip)

\$ [][] , [][] [][] [][] [][] [][] [][]

12. MISCELLANEOUS TRIP COSTS (i.e. unexpected or "one-time" cost)

\$ [][] , [][] [][] [][] [][] [][] [][]

13. BROKERAGE EXPENSE, IF ANY

\$ [][] [][] , [][] [][] [][] [][] [][] [][]

OR

BROKERAGE PERCENTAGE

\$ [][] [][] %

14. TOTAL ESTIMATED TRIP COSTS (Ask, Don't Add!)

\$ [][] [][] , [][] [][] [][] [][] [][] [][]

15. OPERATOR OF THIS TRIP (Check One)

Owner Operated Hired Captain

16. NUMBER OF CREW (Excluding Captain)

[][] [][]

17. NUMBER OF FOREIGN CREW

[][] [][]

18. CREW SHARE

DO YOU USE CREW SHARE?

YES NO

IF YES,

OWNER'S SHARE

[][] [][] %

CAPTAIN'S SHARE

[][] [][] %

Observer Program Economic Trip Cost Form

“Why do we collect economic data?”...“Because the National Marine Fisheries Services is required to conduct economic analysis.”

CREW SHARE 1

		%
--	--	---

CREW SHARE 2

		%
--	--	---

OTHER

		%
--	--	---

IF NO, HOW ARE CREW PAID?

19. DID YOU USE A HARPOON?

YES NO

--	--

HOW MANY SWORDFISH DID YOU HARPOON?

DID YOU HARPOON ANY OTHER SPECIES?
IF YES, WHAT SPECIES, AND HOW MUCH WAS CAUGHT?

20. DID YOU USE ANY OTHER GEAR?

YES NO

IF YES, WHAT TYPE OF GEAR, WHAT SPECIES, AND HOW MUCH WAS CAUGHT?

21. NOTES OR EXPLANATIONS

Please remember to fill out #22 . . .

22. STATUS OF ECONOMIC DATA COLLECTION (For the Observer only)

Data Collected By Observer	
Contact Information of Trip Operator	

Observer Program Economic Trip Cost Form

“Why do we collect economic data?”...“Because the National Marine Fisheries Services is required to conduct economic analysis.”

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VESSEL SAFETY EXAMINATION CHECKLIST

SWR Observer Program
NMFS, Southwest Region

Observers must verify the condition of each item on the list when embarking a vessel. Please advise the Logistics Coordinator or Project Manager if a vessel does not provide these safety items. **DO NOT LEAVE ON A VESSEL YOU FEEL IS UNSAFE**

Trip Number: _____ Vessel Name: _____
 Observer Name: _____ USCG Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety
 Signature: _____ Examination Decal
 Date: _____ Issued Date: _____

	Present	Absent	Comments
PFD/Immersion Suit	()	()	_____
Ring Life Buoys	()	()	_____
Life Raft	()	()	_____
Packing Date: _____			_____
Hydrostatic release date: _____			_____
Stowage of Life Raft	()	()	_____
Distress Signals	()	()	_____
EPIRBS	()	()	_____
Fire Extinguishers	()	()	_____
First Aid Equipment	()	()	_____
Guards for Exposed Hazards	()	()	_____
Nautical Charts for fishing area	()	()	_____
Compass	()	()	_____
Anchor and Radar reflectors	()	()	_____
General alarm System	()	()	_____
Communication Equipment			
w/emergency power source	()	()	_____
High Water Alarm	()	()	_____
Bilge Pump	()	()	_____
Electronic Position Fixing Devices	()	()	_____
Emergency Instructions	()	()	_____

Any additional comments/concerns:

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